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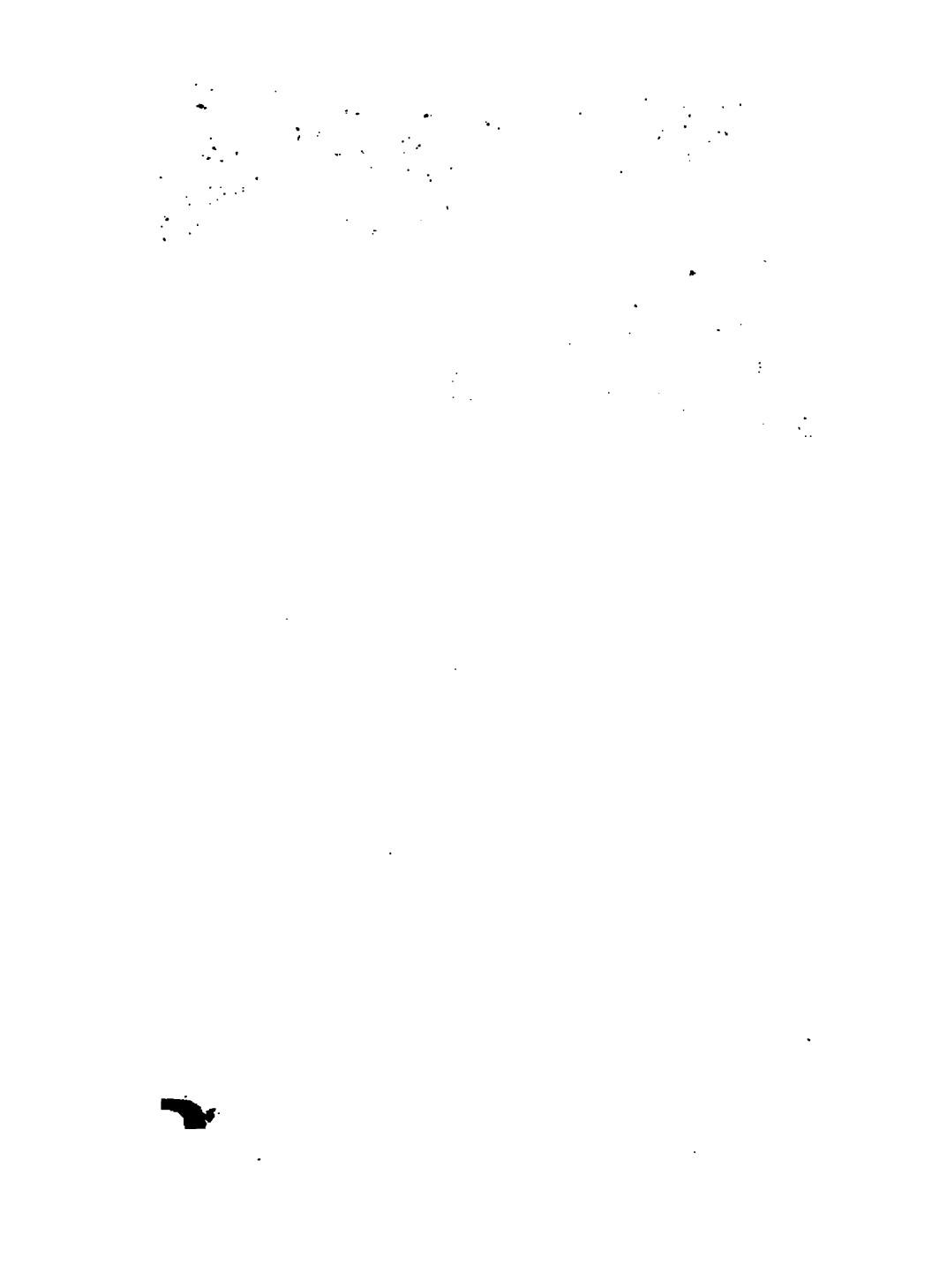
HANDBOOK
OF
THE ADMINISTRATIONS
OF GREAT BRITAIN
1804-1869.



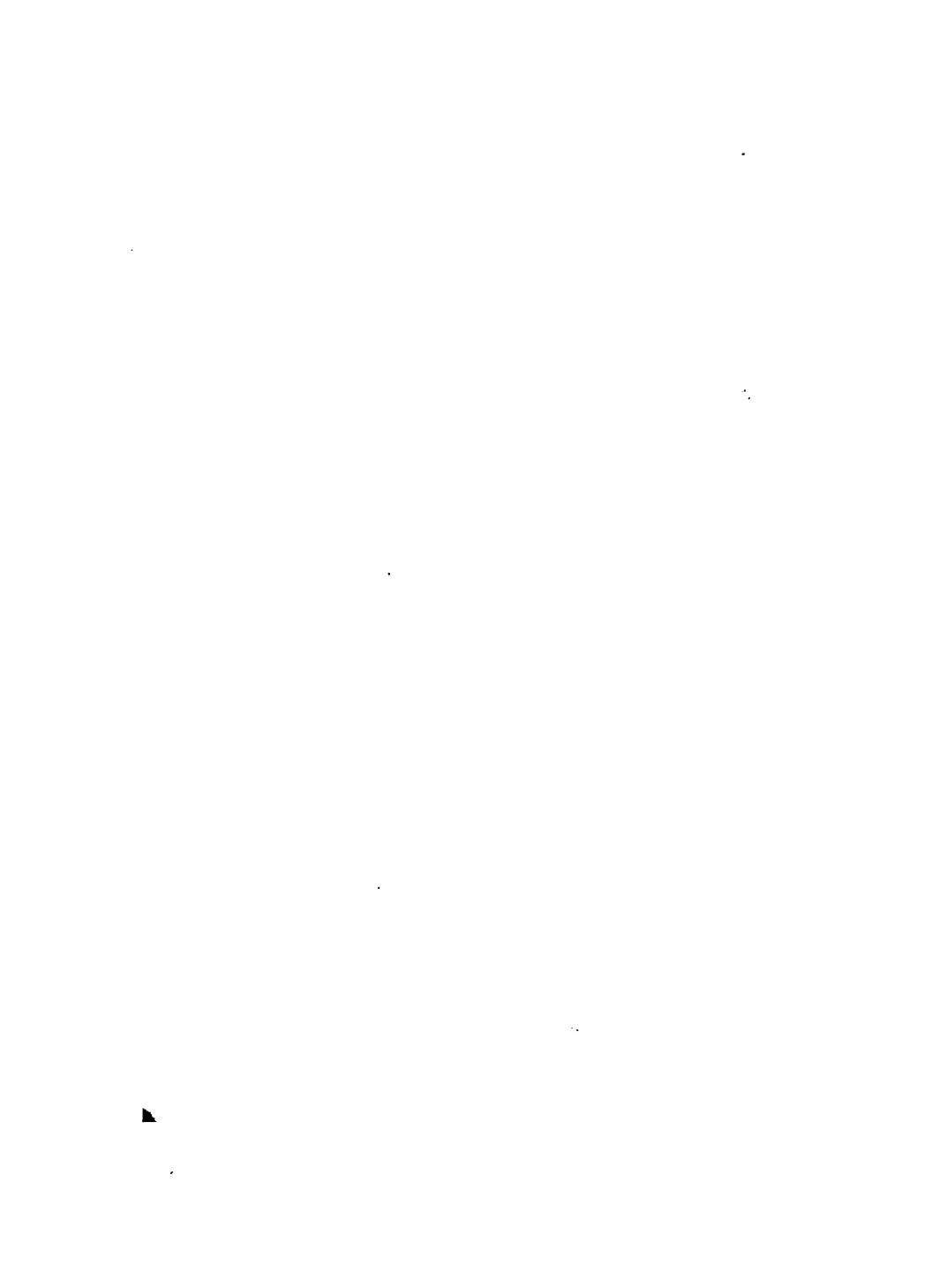
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H A N D B O O K
OF THE
ADMINISTRATIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN
DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.
1801—1869.



HANDBOOK

OF THE
ADMINISTRATIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN
DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

1801—1869.

BY

FRANCIS CULLING CARR,

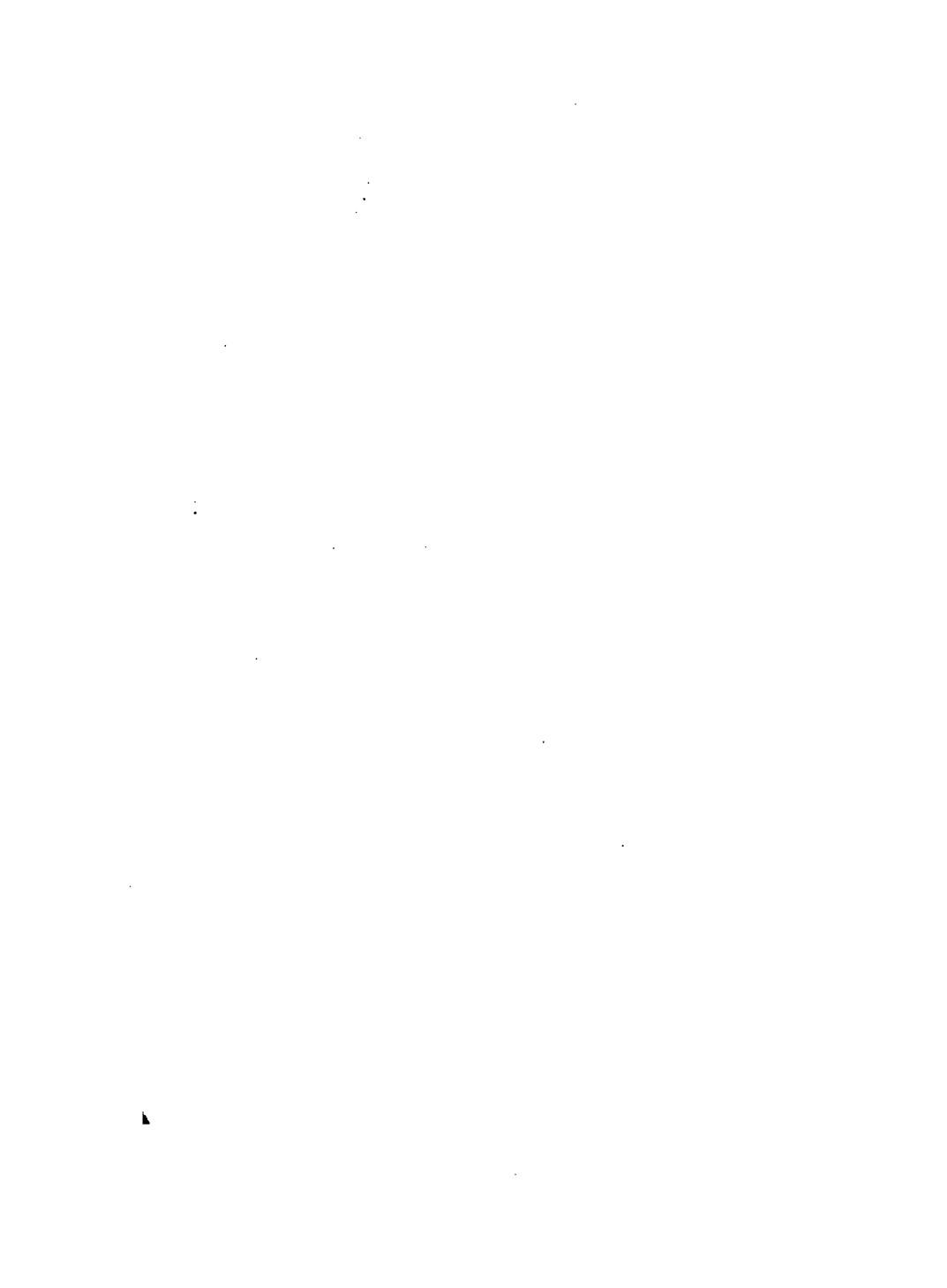
OF H.M.'S MADRAS CIVIL SERVICE, AND OF THE INNER TEMPLE,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW.



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1869.

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P R E F A C E.

THE objects which the Compiler of this summary has had in view, are to put into the hands of students of modern history, and newspaper readers, a handy book of reference in which they would be able readily to see what Ministry at any one time was in power, also what were the chief measures carried through by each Ministry, and the causes of the various changes in the Cabinets. He is fully aware that the whole of the information contained in this summary can be found in other books, but having continually found a difficulty himself in knowing where to find in large histories and works of reference, a short notice relating to any recent political change, the idea occurred to him of arranging the political history of England during this century under the different Ministries. It is this *arrangement* only which is original in the book,—the matter is, of course, a mere compilation from various sources.

The chief sources of information referred to by the Compiler are *The Annual Register*, *The Companion*

to the British Almanack, Alison's History, Sir George C. Lewis' Administrations of Great Britain, Haydn's Dictionary of Dates, Ewald's Last Century of Universal History, &c. When the work was nearly finished Mr. Irving's *Annals of Our Time* was published; this gives a most complete summary of the events of the present reign, well arranged, and supplies to a great extent the want of easy reference for the last thirty years; but as the arrangement of events is there by years and not by *Ministries*, it does not quite answer the purpose of the Compiler of this *Handbook*: moreover, it embraces a shorter period, and enters much more into general detail than he has attempted.

The arrangement here adopted is too simple and self-evident to require more than a cursory notice. A table of the Administrations from the Accession of George III. is given in the beginning, and then each little chapter contains the abstract history of the Administration, its formation, measures, and the cause of its break up, detailed as briefly as possible.

F. C. C.

WOODLEIGH COTTAGE, SOUTHBOROUGH,
November 22, 1869.

**LIST OF THE
ADMINISTRATIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN,
FROM THE ACCESSION OF GEORGE III.**

LIST of the ADMINISTRATIONS of GREAT BRITAIN

Year of Appoint- ment.	PRIME MINISTER.	Leader of the other House.	Duration.	
			Years.	Days.
—	<i>Duke of Newcastle</i>	Mr. Pitt	8	52
1762	<i>Earl of Bute</i>	Mr. Fox	—	322
1763	Mr. George Grenville	Lord Egremont .. Duke of Bedford, Aug. 1763	2	87
1765	<i>Marquis of Rockingham</i>	General Conway	1	21
1766	<i>Duke of Grafton</i>	Mr. C. Townshend .. Lord North, 1767	3	179
1770	Lord North.....	Earl Gower..... Earl Bathurst, 1779	12	34
1782	<i>Marquis of Rockingham</i>	Mr. Fox	—	132
1782	<i>Earl of Shelburne</i>	Mr. Pitt	—	266
1783	<i>Duke of Portland</i>	Lord North.....	—	260
1783	Mr. Pitt	Earl Gower .. Lord Grenville	17	80
1801	Mr. Addington	Lord Pelham	3	56
1804	Mr. Pitt, 2nd time.....	Lord Hawkesbury	1	246
1806	<i>Lord Grenville</i>	Mr. Fox .. Lord Howick (Sept.)	1	64
1807	<i>Duke of Portland</i>	Mr. Perceval	2	270
1809	Mr. Spencer Perceval	Earl of Liverpool	2	150
1812	<i>Earl of Liverpool</i>	Viscount Castlereagh .. Mr. George Canning, 1822	14	307

from the ACCESSION of GEORGE III.

Party in Politics.	Cause of Change of Cabinet.	Reign.
—	Resignation, in consequence of Mr. Pitt's retirement upon his proposal to attack Spain being rejected by the Council. Mr. Pitt was the real head of the Government.	GEORGE III.
—	Resignation of Premier, in consequence of his great unpopularity, both in and out of Parliament.	1760—1820.
Whig	Dismissed by the King, who was insulted by the exclusion of his mother's name from the Regency Bill.	January 29.
Moderate Whig	Resigned, as they were obliged to do, since the King had desired Mr. Pitt (Chatham) to form a new Cabinet.	
Whig	Resignation, in consequence of Lord Chatham's desertion, the Premier being only a nominee of Lord Chatham's. He was also, it is said, driven to resign by the sarcasms of "Junius."	
Tory	Resignation, in consequence of decreasing majority in House, and want of public confidence.	
Whig	Death of the Premier.	
Whig	Defeat of Ministry on the terms of peace with America.	
Coalition ...	Dismissed by King on defeat of the India Bill.	
Tory	Resignation of Mr. Pitt, as the King refused to entertain the question of Roman Catholic Emancipation.	
Tory	Inability to carry on the war, the nation being clamorous for the return of Mr. Pitt to power.	
Tory	Death of the Premier.	
Whig Coalition, called "All the Talents"	Dismissed by King, as they refused to pledge themselves not to propose any concession to Roman Catholics.	
Tory Coalition	Death of the Premier.	
Tory	Assassination of the Premier.	Regency.
Tory	Illness and resignation of the Premier, and disunion of his Cabinet on subject of Roman Catholic Emancipation.	1811—\

LIST of the ADMINISTRATIONS of GREAT BRITAIN

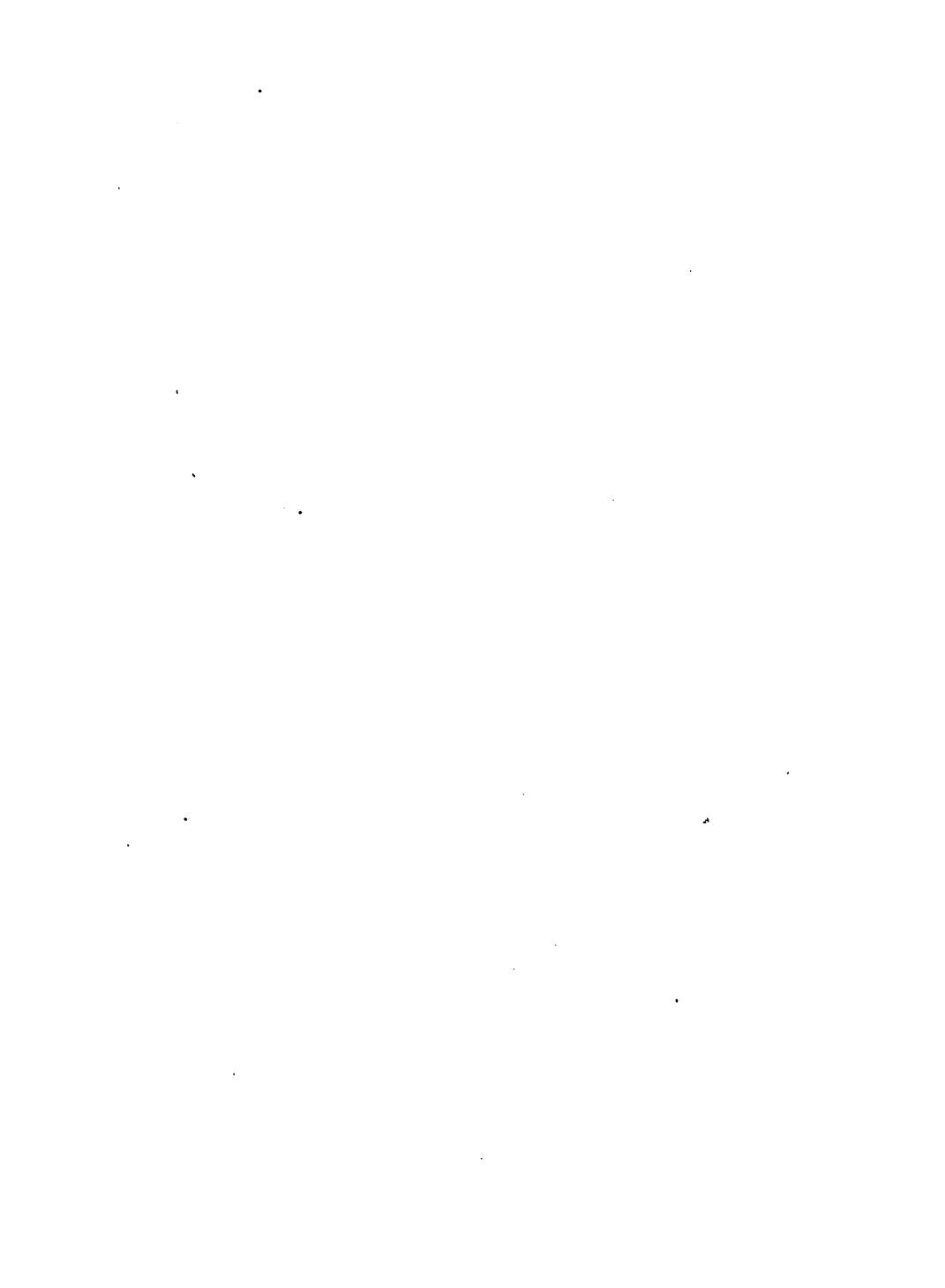
Year of Appointment.	PRIME MINISTER.	Leader of the other House.	Duration.	
			Years.	Days.
1827	Mr. George Canning.....	Lord Goderich	—	121
1827	<i>Lord Goderich</i>	Mr. Huskisson	—	168
1828	<i>Duke of Wellington</i>	Mr. Peel	2	301
1830	<i>Earl Grey</i>	Lord Althorp	3	231
1834	<i>Lord Melbourne</i>	Lord Althorp	—	128
1834	Sir Robert Peel	Duke of Wellington	—	131
1835	<i>Lord Melbourne</i> , 2nd time....	Lord John Russell.....	6	138
1841	Sir Robert Peel, 2nd time....	Duke of Wellington	4	293
1846	Lord John Russell	Marquis of Lansdowne	5	239
1852	<i>Earl of Derby</i>	Mr. Disraeli	—	300
1853	<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>	Lord John Russell.....	2	45
1855	Viscount Palmerston.....	Earl Granville	3	17
1858	<i>Earl of Derby</i> , 2nd time	Mr. Disraeli	1	111
1859	Viscount Palmerston, 2nd time.	Earl Granville	6	128
1865	<i>Earl Russell</i> , 2nd time	Mr. Gladstone	—	249
1866	<i>Earl of Derby</i> , 3rd time	Mr. Disraeli	1	238
1868	Mr. Disraeli	Earl Malmesbury	—	281
1868	Mr. Gladstone	Earl Granville	—	—

N.B.—The names of the Premiers who sat in the House of Lords

from the Accession of George III.—(continued).

Party in Politics.	Cause of Change of Cabinet.	Reign.
Coalition.....	Death of the Premier.	GEORGE IV.
Coalition.....	Resignation of Premier, from inability to manage his Cabinet.	Jan. 29, 1820—
Tory	Resignation, as they were opposed to all Reform, when the House and country were set upon it.	June 26, 1830.
Whig. The “Reform Ministry”	Split in the Cabinet upon the Irish question.	WILLIAM IV.
Whig	Dismissed by the King peremptorily.	June 26, 1830—
Tory	Repeated defeats on Irish Church question.	June 20, 1837.
Whig	Passing of votes of want of confidence.	
Tory	Defeated on the Life Preservation Bill for Ireland—the Protectionists, estranged by the Premier's conversion to Free Trade, voting against the Government.	
Whig	Defeated on the Militia Bill, by Lord Palmerston, who had just been removed from the Foreign Office.	
Tory	Defeated on the Budget.	VICTORIA.
Liberal Coalition	Resignation of Premier, on motion for inquiry into the state of our army in the Crimea being carried.	
Liberal	Defeated on the Foreign Conspiracy to Murder Bill, which the Premier introduced at request of the French Emperor.	June 20,
Conservative	Defeated on the Reform Bill.	1837.
Liberal	Death of the Premier.	
Liberal	Defeated on the Reform Bill.	
Conservative	Resignation of the Premier, on account of ill-health.	
Conservative	Resignation, on the general election returning a large Liberal majority.	
Liberal	—	

are in Italics. The others sat in the House of Commons.



MR. PITT'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

1783—1801.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury and } Mr. Pitt, first time.
Chancellor of the Exchequer }
2. Lord Chancellor Lord Loughborough.
3. Lord President of Council Earl of Chatham.
4. Lord Privy Seal Lord Westmorland.
5. Home Secretary { Lord Grenville, Leader in the House
of Lords.
6. Foreign Secretary Duke of Portland.
7. Colonial Secretary Mr. Dundas.
8. First Lord of Admiralty Earl Spencer.
9. President of Board of Control { Mr. Jenkinson (afterwards Lord
Liverpool).
10. Secretary at War Mr. Windham.

MR. PITT'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

From—December 27, 1783, *to* March 17, 1801.

Duration—17 years and 80 days.

Reign—George III.

Party—Tory; but embracing the Moderate Whigs.

Principal Events—Financial Reform, India Bill, Revolution in France, Revolutionary War with France, Trial of Warren Hastings, War with Tippoo Sahib, Legislative Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

Parliaments Dissolved—March 25, 1784, to strengthen the position of Ministers.

June 19, 1790.

May 20, 1796.

December 31, 1800. The new Parliament which assembled after this election was the first Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland.

Speaker of the House of Commons:-

Mr. C. W. Cornwall, died January 2, 1789.

Mr. W. W. Grenville, resigned, May 1789 (afterwards Lord Grenville).

Mr. H. Addington (afterwards Lord Sidmouth).

1801.—On January 1, 1801, the union of the legislatures of Great Britain and Ireland was effected, the frame of our Government was renovated and enlarged, and the King assumed a new style and new titles. Apart, therefore, from its being the first day of a new century, it forms a fit era on which to commence an historical summary of our modern administrations. At that period the great French war, which had been carried on since 1793, was still raging, and Napoleon was First Consul of France. His great object in the war was to strike at the root of England's naval power and greatness by cutting off as much as possible the sources of her commerce. Her Transatlantic colonies, in the reduced state of his army, were beyond his reach; but India, the great fountain of England's wealth, it seemed not impossible to reach, by means of political intrigues, as well as arms, through

the establishment of a French colony in Egypt ; and he also hoped, by thus rendering France the mistress of the Mediterranean, to divide with Great Britain the empire of the ocean.

The legislative union had been effected by Mr. Pitt, whose Ministry had been in power since 1783. When first made Prime Minister by George III., Mr. Pitt was only twenty-five years of age. The majority in the House of Commons had been adverse, but after a few months this adverse majority had dwindled down ; and after the dissolution in 1784, the general election which returned a House of Commons, two-thirds of whom were pledged to support his Ministry, determined for more than forty years the government of England, since the party then established continued, with the short exception of the Whig Government of 1806, to govern the country on Tory principles till 1830. In the first Session of the new Parliament, Mr. Pitt carried his India Bill, establishing the Ministerial Board of Control and the double government which, with modifications, existed till the year 1858. Besides this, the chief public transactions in Mr. Pitt's first ten years of office were his Financial System, the Commercial Treaty with France in 1786, the invasion of Holland in 1787, and the Regency Question in 1788. With a vigorous hand he had pruned the luxuriance of prodigality, and introduced sound economical principles : a reduction of the tea and other duties had checked smuggling and increased consumption ; and a prudent economy had enabled him to set apart a million a year as a sinking fund for a reduction of the National Debt, according to his bill carried in 1786. But in 1793 the untoward rush of events on the Continent entailed the commencement of the long war against France, and checked Mr. Pitt's career ; and the beneficent spirit of social amelioration slumbered till the accession of Mr. Canning, Mr. Pitt's favourite disciple, to supreme power in 1827.

The Imperial Parliament met for the first time on January 22. Mr. Addington was re-elected Speaker, and on the 2nd February, the King formally opened the Session, referring in his speech chiefly to our relations with the Continental Powers. Amendments were proposed on the Address in both Houses, but were rejected by large majorities ; but from the tone of the

debates it was manifest that all were alive to the critical and alarming situation in which the country was placed. The south and west of Europe, subdued by the arms of France, were detached from all co-operation with England in the war, or were dragged into the stream of hostility against her. The Northern Powers, envious of our commercial and naval greatness, and instigated by the intrigues of Buonaparte, revived claims inconsistent with both, and were prepared to enforce them by arms. At the time when the British nation, threatened by foreign invasion, hard pressed by scarcity, and anticipating famine, looked for a supply of foreign grain, the Baltic and Danish Ports were shut against her.

The internal state of the country also presented difficulties of no ordinary kind. Mr. Pitt, in bringing about the legislative union of England and Ireland, had pledged himself to the Irish Roman Catholics, that the removal of the Catholic disabilities should immediately follow the union, and was, indeed, to be considered part of the plan. The King, however, was resolutely opposed to grant this relief to the Roman Catholics: to do so would be, in his opinion, to violate his coronation oath, and consequently when Mr. Pitt stated to the King his wish to introduce such relief as a Cabinet measure, he was met by a positive refusal; and owing to the King's malady increasing, which was probably brought on by his over-anxiety and vexation, it was impossible further to discuss the question with him. No other course, therefore, remained FOR MR. PITT BUT TO RESIGN his post. This resignation of an office which he had held for seventeen years, and which he had administered with such disinterested zeal for the honour of his country, was effected without any oral communication with the King, probably because the Minister knew that it was hopeless to try and alter the King's determination; even if the discussion upon a subject which he regarded with such morbid dislike, and the prospect of parting with a servant on whom he had so long relied, did not materially affect his reason.

On the 10th February NOTICE OF THE RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY was given in both Houses. Some have considered that the Catholic question was only the ostensible cause of Mr. Pitt's

resignation, and that the real reason was because the Minister perceived that England would be obliged to make peace; and that on terms inconsistent with those opinions which he had always advanced.

On February 11 Sir John Mitford was elected Speaker in the room of Mr. Addington, who resigned.

MR. ADDINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

1801—1804.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer { Mr. Addington, afterwards Lord Sidmouth, formerly Speaker in the House of Commons.
2. Lord Chancellor Lord Eldon.
3. Lord President of Council Duke of Portland.
4. Lord Privy Seal Earl of Westmorland.
5. Home Secretary { Lord Pelham, Leader in the House of Lords, resigned, June, 1803.
Mr. C. Yorke.
6. Foreign Secretary { Lord Hawkesbury. In 1803 he was called to the House of Lords during his father's lifetime.
7. Colonial Secretary Lord Hobart.
8. First Lord of Admiralty Earl St. Vincent.
9. Master-General Ordnance Earl of Chatham.
10. President of Board of Control { Viscount Lewisham.
Lord Castlereagh, from July, 1802.
11. Secretary at War { Mr. Charles Yorke.
Mr. C. Bragge, from June, 1803.

MR. ADDINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—March, 1801, *to May*, 1804.

Duration—3 years and 56 days.

Reign—George III.

Party—Tory.

Principal Events—The Peace of Amiens in 1802, and renewal of the war with France in 1803.

Parliament Dissolved—June 29, 1802.

Speaker of the House of Commons—

Sir J. Mitford, resigned, February, 1802.

Mr. C. Abbott.

1801.—It was on the 5th February, a few days before it was formally announced in the House, that Mr. Pitt's resignation was accepted by the King, and the new Ministry provisionally formed ; but, as has been just remarked, the change had such an effect on the King's mind, that it brought on an attack of insanity from which he did not recover till the 10th of March. At that time Mr. Pitt let it be known, although he did not actually say so himself, that he would be willing to remain in office on the King's own terms ; but by that time Mr. Addington, feeling secure of possessing the King's favour, would make no overture, and would not concede his position ; so Mr. Pitt was obliged to withdraw, but he declared himself ready to give at all times to the new Ministry, who were then formally installed in their offices, the benefit of his support.

Mr. Addington's Cabinet was a small one consisting of but nine persons ; of these only four were members of the House of Commons, and of these four all but the Premier himself were the eldest sons of earls.

At the time of Mr. Addington's accession to power the House was divided into three parties, the first of which was far less numerous than the other two. They were—

1st. *The Peace Party*—headed by Mr. Charles Fox, who were

more afraid of the growing influence of the Crown, than of French influence.

2nd. *The War Party*—headed by the late Ministry, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Windham, Lord Spencer, Lord Grenville, and Mr. Dundas, who were less desirous of peace, than fearful lest an intercourse might be re-established with France which would engender and spread democratic principles in England; and who considered that war was preferable to a peace which was not concluded on terms perfectly and in all particulars consistent with the honour of England.

3rd. Those who were desirous for a peace on any fair and reasonable terms, and were not jealous of French influence. This party was without a head, and in talent and power of eloquence could not compare with either of the others; but it comprised a large number of respectable and moderate supporters, and it was upon them that the present Ministry relied.

On March 12 Lord Castlereagh moved for the continuance of the Act for the Suppression of the Rebellion in Ireland, and the motion was, after some opposition, carried without a division; and owing to there being some disaffection apparent in England, the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended during the continuance of the war.

On the 12th of July Mr. Dundas gave a detailed account of the affairs of India, particularly as they were connected with finance, and of his own conduct during the seventeen years for which he had presided over the Board of Control; and he showed that the financial aspect of India was becoming a satisfactory one. Sir William Pulteney's motion for establishing Free Trade between England and India was carried without a division, but was not productive of any result. Parliament was prorogued July 2.

During the autumn the great war went on, and became more exciting than before, owing to the collection of a large force of all arms at Boulogne, with which Buonaparte intended to invade England, while on our side Lord Nelson was put in command of a flotilla of gunboats, with which to carry war home to the doors of France. The hostile encampments were actually in sight of one another across the straits of Dover.

On the 15th August a rash attack was made upon the French

ships in Boulogne harbour, which the enemy succeeded in repelling. But in spite of this slight advantage, it was manifest that many causes were acting to bring about overtures of peace from France. So great was the naval strength of England, that, at the rendezvous whence the invading army was to issue forth against England, every French boat had to be kept chained inside the harbour, under the protection of their troops and their batteries! At last, on the 2nd of October, PRELIMINARIES OF PEACE BETWEEN FRANCE AND ENGLAND were signed in London by Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Otto, by which England was to keep Ceylon and Trinidad, Egypt was to be restored to the Porte, and the rest was to be given up to France. Peace was everywhere proclaimed throughout Europe, and numerous treaties were signed during the autumn, by which the restless ambition even of Napoleon himself was well nigh satisfied.

Parliament was opened October 29, and the King opened the Session in a speech in which he announced the convention entered into with the Northern Powers, and the treaty now negotiating with France, from which a permanent Peace was to be hoped for. The Address was carried unanimously. Subsequent debates proved that the eyes of statesmen were being opened to the ulterior objects of Buonaparte, with regard to Europe; and that many were beginning to see, as soon as the first feelings of relief at the termination of the long war began to fade, that the terms which England had made had not been very advantageous or honourable. Mr. Pitt and his party gave their warm and decided support to the Ministry; and Mr. Fox and Mr. Sheridan approved of the Peace, but in doing so, charged in the bitterest language those who had carried on the war with culpable misconduct. The new opposition, however, though few, were conspicuous by their abilities, and were represented in the Lords by the Marquis of Buckingham, Earls Spencer and Fitzwilliam, and Lord Grenville, and in the Commons by Messrs. Windham, Grenville, Elliot, Lord Temple, and Dr. Lawrence.

The thanks of both Houses were voted to the army and navy for their services in Egypt, and after other unimportant business the Houses adjourned.

1802.—Suspicions were gradually awakened at the beginning of the year, in consequence of the delay in the conclusion of the Definitive Treaty, that Lord Cornwallis and the country he represented at the Congress at Amiens, were being trifled with.

The treaty was signed on March 27.

Parliament assembled on the 19th January.

In consequence of the Speaker, Sir John Mitford, being appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Mr. Charles Abbott was unanimously elected Speaker.

On the 31st March a debate took place on the Claims of the Prince of Wales, on account of the arrears alleged to be due to him from the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall. The House, by 160 to 108, decided not to enter into those Claims.

An important *debate upon the Definitive Treaty* took place on May 13. It was brought on by a motion by Lord Grenville in the House of Lords, but only 16 Lords voted for the motion, and 122 against it.

In the Commons the question was also debated on the same day. Mr. Windham, in a most eloquent speech of three hours duration, entered most fully into the treaty, and brought forward a number of objections, which he supported with great ability. The motion was seconded by Lord Folkestone, who declared the British flag was disgraced by this treaty. The ablest defence of the treaty was by Lord Hawkesbury and Lord Castlereagh. Mr. Sheridan's speech on the occasion was a masterpiece of eloquence and replete with bitter sallies of wit directed against the late Ministry. On the division there were only 20 supporters of the motion, and 276 against it.

The remainder of the Session was uneventful. On 28th of June, Parliament was prorogued, and very shortly afterwards DISSOLVED.

The new Parliament met on November 16, and Mr. C. Abbott was re-elected Speaker. On the 23rd November the King formally opened the business of the Session, and in his speech chiefly referred to the satisfactory state of the country, the abundance of the harvest, and the prosperity of commerce.

On the 21st December the House adjourned.

1803.—The year opened under more gloomy aspects than the last year promised. A growing mistrust in the ability and firmness of the Ministry, and demonstrations, which could not be mistaken, of the hostile views and designs of Buonaparte, and the almost inevitable rupture of the Treaty of Amiens, and a renewal of the war, were the most prominent features of public opinion.

Parliament met on February 3. Colonel Despard, and six of his accomplices, were executed on February 21, for having formed a treasonable design to overturn the Government, assassinate the King, and take possession of the Houses of Parliament, and the Public Offices.

The affairs of the Prince of Wales were discussed, and on Mr. Addington's proposition, an annual grant of 60,000*l.* a year was agreed to.

On March 8 a message from the King was brought down to both Houses of Parliament, saying, that in consequence of the preparations in the ports of Holland and France, it was expedient to adopt additional measures of security. *This message was the forerunner of the war.* All minor matters were put aside, and the great question, Shall we have peace or war? was paramount. The Address was unanimously voted in both Houses, additional seamen were voted, and the militia called out.

During this time Mr. Pitt absented himself from Parliament, and Mr. Canning, his confidential friend, in giving his support to the Ministry, qualified it with so many expressions of distrust, that it was publicly believed that the good understanding between him and the Government was not continued. It was also understood, that at that time ineffectual attempts were made by Mr. Addington, to induce Mr. Pitt to join the Ministry; this he only consented to do, if he was placed at the head of the administration, to which Mr. Addington and his party would not agree.

The manner of the First Consul was at this time most annoying, and it was evident that he was bent on renewing the war; the ostensible cause of the disagreement, was the continued occupation of Malta by the English. On the 18th March Buonaparte publicly insulted and abused Lord Whitworth, our ambassador, at a levee at the

Tuileries, and on the 12th May Lord Whitworth left Paris, and
ON THE 16TH MAY WAR WAS DECLARED BETWEEN ENGLAND
AND FRANCE.

On the 18th May a debate on the financial condition of the country took place on Lord King's motion. Lord Grenville made a very able and effective speech, exposing in the severest manner the fallacy of Mr. Addington's financial estimates, his failure to meet any of the difficulties of the occasion, and his culpable concealment from Parliament of the real state of the country. The House of Lords feeling that at this time it was necessary to support the Ministry, negatived Lord King's motion.

On the 23rd May *the causes of the war, and the whole conduct of the Ministry in the negotiation, were discussed* in the House of Lords. There was an overwhelming majority (142 to 10) in favour of the Ministry.

The debate in the House of Commons was memorable as that in which Mr. Pitt again appeared in his place, and delivered a magnificent speech in favour of going to war; Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Canning took the same side; Mr. Fox and Mr. Wilberforce opposed it: on a division 398 supported the address approving of the war, and only 67 voted against it.

On the 2nd of June further debates took place relative to the conduct of the Ministers, who obtained large majorities in both Houses. Mr. Pitt endeavoured to make the House evade the direct question of approval or censure, by moving an adjournment, but there was a majority of 277 against his motion. On this occasion, Mr. Canning, for the first time in his life, voted against Mr. Pitt.

With regard to the policy of going to war at this time, Buonaparte himself said, that it was not his intention to have renewed the war in 1803, but that he intended, during a six or eight years' peace, to have so increased his navy and fortifications, that he would be able to crush England. To have avoided war, therefore, on this occasion, would merely have been to postpone it until France was better prepared.

The remainder of the Session was principally taken up with considering the state of the country with regard to its defence.

On July 28, in consequence of a rebellious spirit of insurrection having manifested itself in Ireland, the Habeas Corpus Bill was suspended. The rioters had brutally murdered in the streets of Dublin the venerable Lord Chief Justice Lord Kilwarden.

Parliament was prorogued on August 12.

Some Ministerial changes were made at this time, which, however, did not materially strengthen the Ministry. Lord Hawkesbury was called to the Upper House; Mr. Yorke succeeded Lord Pelham as one of the Secretaries of State; and Mr. Tierney was made Treasurer of the Navy, and Mr. Bragge Secretary at War.

During the remainder of the year the power of Buonaparte spread itself completely over Europe; and although Great Britain achieved brilliant victories in India, and frustrated the plans of France in the West Indies, in Europe she was unable to do more than arm herself to repel any force which France might send to invade her. The prospect before the country seemed a very gloomy one, and the nation was dissatisfied with the want of talent displayed by Mr. Addington's Ministry, and was longing for the return of Mr. Pitt to power, at the head of a strong and vigorous Administration.

Parliament was opened November 22. In his opening speech the King spoke in confident terms as to the state of preparation that the country was now in to repel all invasion; and before the adjournment for the Christmas recess the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Bill in Ireland was continued, and the army estimates passed.

1804.—Early in the year the state of the King's mind gave again cause for great anxiety, and from February to May he continued incapable of transacting public business. This, in a time of war, and when the Ministry in power had not the confidence of the nation, was productive of general uneasiness.

This was further increased by the discovery of the very inefficient state of the navy under the management of Lord St. Vincent. Mr. Pitt, on the 15th March, brought forward a motion for inquiry into this subject, but the motion was, after a

powerful debate, negative by 201 to 180. But in spite of this majority, it was clear that the Ministry were losing public confidence, and being now opposed by Mr. Pitt, as well as by what were called the old and new oppositions viz., the Fox and Grenville parties, it was easy to see that they were rapidly sinking; the minds of the great majority of men throughout the nation became convinced that, at such a crisis, it was absolutely necessary for the public safety that the helm of the State should be placed under firmer guidance, and all eyes naturally turned to Mr. Pitt.

After the Easter recess the attack was renewed by Mr. Fox bringing forward his motion on the 23rd of April, with respect to the inadequate state of the defences of the country. He was supported by Mr. Pitt, and the only answer which the Ministry had to make was to ridicule the coalition of such inveterate foes: in fact, the Ministerial defence was conspicuous by its want of ability; the chief speakers on their side being Mr. Addington, and the Attorney General Mr. Spencer Percival, and the Treasurer of the Navy Mr. Tierney, who had always been Mr. Pitt's rancorous personal opponent. The Ministerial majority was only 52 (256 to 204); and two days afterwards, on April 25, the majority dwindled to 37, after a debate on the subject of the Army of Reserve. Feeling their authority thus waning, the Ministry wisely resolved upon resigning; for, in consideration of the state of the King's health, they did not like to recommend a dissolution of Parliament, and they were also glad to avail themselves of a fitting excuse to retire before the overwhelming rhetorical power of a combined opposition of all the prominent men, viz., Messrs. Pitt, Fox, Windham, Sheridan, Canning, &c.

It was now openly stated by Ministers that they only held their offices during the continuance of a delicate state of public affairs. The opposition seeing their object gained, suspended all further attacks till the King's health was restored. On the 12th May, the day after he had again appeared in public, it was formally announced that MINISTERS HAD RESIGNED, and that their successors had been appointed.

MR. PITTS SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

1804—1806.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury and
Chancellor of the Exchequer } Mr. Pitt.
2. Lord Chancellor..... Lord Eldon.
3. President of Council..... } Duke of Portland, resigned, from fail-
ing health.
} Lord Sidmouth, Jan. to June, 1805.
} Lord Camden, June, 1805.
4. Lord Privy Seal Earl of Westmorland.
5. Master-General of Ordnance.... Earl of Chatham.
6. President of Board of Control Lord Castlereagh.
7. First Lord of Admiralty } Lord Melville, resigned in April, 1805,
on his naval administration being
impugned.
} Sir Charles Middleton (created Lord
Barham).
8. Secretary for Foreign Affairs } Lord Harrowby, on Dec. 20, 1804, re-
signed in consequence of an accident.
} Lord Mulgrave.
9. Secretary for War and Colonies } Earl Camden.
} Lord Castlereagh, from June, 1805, re-
taining also provisionally the Presi-
dency of the Board of Control.
10. Chancellor of the Duchy of } Lord Mulgrave.
Lancaster..... } Lord Buckinghamshire, Jan. to June,
1805.
} Lord Harrowby, June, 1805.
11. President of Board of Trade.... Duke of Montrose.
12. Secretary, Home Department.... } Lord Hawkesbury (Liverpool), Leader
in the House of Lords.

MR. PITT'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

From—May, 1804, to January 6, 1806.

Duration—1 year and 246 days.

Reign—George III.

Party—Tory, although many of the Tories refused to join Mr. Pitt.

Principal Event—War with France.

Parliament Dissolved—none.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. Abbott.

1804.—It was at first thought that a coalition was to be formed as the basis of the new administration; but it was soon discovered that this was impracticable, partly on account of differences of opinion among the leaders of the different parties, partly on account of the aversion of the King to Mr. Fox. On the 2nd May Mr. Pitt had sent through Lord Eldon a letter to the King containing his view of a coalition Ministry; but the King being much troubled at Mr. Addington's resignation, and being at first reluctant to readmit Mr. Pitt to power, had given a discouraging answer. On May 7 Mr. Pitt had a personal interview [he had not seen the King since 1801], and with difficulty obtained leave to treat with Lord Grenville and his friends, as well as with the friends of Mr. Fox, the King positively refusing to admit Mr. Fox himself to office. On acquainting them with this decision Mr. Pitt received a letter from Lord Grenville, who had been his able and faithful supporter during the former war, refusing to accept office in an administration which excluded Mr. Fox; but Mr. Fox himself acquiesced in the arrangement, and said that he hoped his exclusion would not prevent others from accepting office. Mr. Pitt had, therefore, no alternative, but to form his Cabinet without the followers of Mr. Fox and Lord Grenville, and this he did by patching up the former Ministry without Mr. Addington. His Cabinet consisted of twelve members, half of whom had been members of Mr. Addington's Ministry.

and only two of whom, viz., Mr. Pitt and Lord Castlereagh, sat in the House of Commons.

The first business of any importance by the new Ministry was the passing of the Volunteer Consolidation Bill, and the Additional Force Bill, which, however, only passed by small majorities and after much opposition. The vigour and decision of Mr. Pitt's councils speedily appeared in the confederacy which he formed of the Continental States to stem the progress of French ambition; nor was the ability and energy of Lord Melville less conspicuous in the rapid restoration of the navy, which, under the late disastrous spirit of parsimonious reform, had degenerated into an unexampled state of decrepitude and decay. On the 31st of July Parliament was prorogued, the King in his speech referring with confidence to our state of preparation for war.

At this time Mr. Pitt's manner is described as being 'absorbed, melancholy, and ailing.' He evidently much felt his desertion by his former friends, and during the recess he had leisure to consider what steps he could take for strengthening his position.

In India the war with Holkar and Scindia was continued, and splendid victories were obtained by Generals Lake and Wellesley at Assaye, Delhi, Laswarree, &c., and the war terminated gloriously for the British arms.

On December 2 Napoleon was crowned by the Pope at Nôtre Dame.

1805.—Mr. Pitt having in vain attempted again to persuade Lord Grenville to join his ministry, opened a negotiation with Mr. Addington, which was successful. He was raised to the peerage as Lord Sidmouth, and both he and his friend the Earl of Buckinghamshire were admitted to the Cabinet. The reconciliation, however, was hollow, and proved neither effectual nor durable.

The Session opened January 15.—In his speech the King referred with satisfaction to our military and naval condition, stated that *Spain had declared war*, and that Napoleon had sent proposals of peace with which it had been impossible to comply. The Address in reply was carried without opposition.

On a motion by Sir Evan Nepean leave was given to bring in a bill to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland in consequence of the prevailing disaffection. In the House of Lords the rupture with Spain was forcibly criticized in an able speech by Lord Grenville : he was replied to by Lord Hawkesbury. On the same day (February 11) there was a long and animated debate on the same subject in the House of Commons. Mr. Grey led the opposition and moved an elaborate amendment on the address moved by Mr. Pitt. The division took place at six o'clock in the morning, and there was a majority of 207 for the Ministry (313 to 106).

On April 6 Mr. Whitbread moved the consideration of the 10th Naval Report, in which he brought forward his *charges against Lord Melville* for maladministration and peculation of the public monies. On a division the numbers were equal, 216 to 216, and the Speaker gave his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Lord Melville accordingly placed his resignation in Mr. Pitt's hands ; but Mr. Whitbread demanded his removal from all the offices which he held, and from the Royal Councils for ever. This motion was, however, withdrawn, and the former resolutions were laid before the King by the House. On the 6th May Mr. Pitt rose in the House of Commons, and stated with much feeling that he had felt it his duty to advise the erasure of Lord Melville's name from the Privy Council ; and thus the Minister was obliged to continue his administration almost unsupported, having been deprived by party rancour of his only effective coadjutor.

On May 10 Lord Grenville introduced the subject of the *Roman Catholic Disabilities*. After two nights' debate his motion was negatived by 178 to 49. In the House of Commons a similar motion was negatived by a majority of 212 (386 to 124), Mr. Pitt voting against the motion, on account not of its principle, but of its inopportuneness.

On the 11th June Lord Melville was heard in his own defence at the bar of the House of Commons, and Mr. Whitbread moved for his impeachment. After a debate which lasted all through the night, the House divided at six o'clock—195 for the impeachment, 272 against it, majority 77 ; after which another division

took place on Mr. Bond's amendment. For it 238, against it 229, majority for a criminal prosecution 9.

On the 25th of June the House annulled these votes and voted for the impeachment of Lord Melville, and on the following day Mr. Whitbread impeached him before the House of Lords, and on the 4th July the articles of impeachment were exhibited.

On the 12th July Parliament was prorogued.

Lord Wellesley was recalled from India, and Lord Cornwallis was again sent out as Governor-General. He arrived in July and died in October.

Peace was concluded with Holkar.

Previous to the prorogation Lord Sidmouth, having taken an active part against Lord Melville, and (some say) being believed by the Minister to possess too great an influence with the King, resigned, and was succeeded by Lord Camden. The Earl of Buckinghamshire, who also resigned, was succeeded by Lord Harrowby. Thus was the Minister not only deprived of the assistance of the able Lord Melville, but of the support also of Lord Sidmouth's followers. He stood, indeed, quite alone in the administration, none of his colleagues being men of any great ability. Great though Mr. Pitt's genius was, it was unequal to the task of carrying on unaided such vast and complicated duties as now devolved upon him. Austria was led too precipitately to open the campaign against Napoleon before that system of co-operation agreed to by the Allies could be acted upon; and while the English troops destined to act in concert with those of Sweden and Russia in the North of Europe had hardly landed, and the southern division of the English troops was inactive in the Kingdom of Naples, the Austrian army under General Mack was forced to capitulate at *Ulm* to the French on the 20th of October, and the 2nd of December witnessed the total defeat of the Austrian and Russian Emperors by Napoleon at *Austerlitz*. These disasters even our glorious naval victory at *Trafalgar* on October 21 was unable to overshadow, following, though it did, a succession of naval achievements. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the Minister's health, already much impaired, became daily worse, and that he was compelled, however reluc-

tantly, to quit all public business, and repair to Bath ; the use of the waters of which place, it was hoped rather than expected, might give a favourable turn to his disorders. This was his condition when the news of Austerlitz arrived to add the overwhelming weight of its signal calamity to his already overburdened mind.

1806.—On the 10th of January Mr. Pitt was moved from Bath, but he rapidly sunk and EXPIRED ON THE MORNING OF THE 23RD, in the forty-seventh year of his age, worn out by over-work. Parliament had met on the 21st, but the opposition to the address was silenced by the news of the Minister's death. A vote for a public funeral in Westminster Abbey was passed, but 89 out of 347 voted against it ; Mr. Windham laboured to show that Mr. Pitt was not a great statesman, because he had not been a successful one—and Mr. Fox argued that he could not declare him to be an excellent statesman who, in his opinion, was the sole, certainly the chief, supporter of a system which he, Mr. Fox, had always considered a bad one.

On February 8 a grant of 40,000*l.* to pay Mr. Pitt's debts was carried without opposition.

Mr. Pitt's death was considered as a VIRTUAL DISSOLUTION OF THE MINISTRY, as without him his Cabinet contained no one of pre-eminent abilities, and no one qualified to act as its head ; and it was further manifested that they were without the essential quality of united opinion.

LORD GRENVILLE'S ADMINISTRATION.

1806—1807.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury Lord Grenville.
2. Chancellor of the Exchequer.... { Lord Henry Petty (afterwards Lord Lansdowne).
3. Lord Chancellor Lord Erskine.
4. Lord President of Council { Lord Fitzwilliam, resigned.
Viscount Sidmouth.
5. Lord Privy Seal { Viscount Sidmouth.
Lord Holland, 1806.
6. Foreign Secretary { Mr. C. J. Fox (Leader in the House of Commons), died, September, 1806.
Lord Spencer.
7. Home Secretary { Earl Spencer.
Lord Howick, Leader of the House of Commons after Mr. Fox's death.
8. Colonial Secretary Mr. William Windham.
9. First Lord of the Admiralty.... { Sir Charles Grey (afterwards Lord Howick).
Mr. Thomas Grenville, 1806 (brother of the Premier).
10. President, Board of Control.... Lord Minto.
11. President of Board of Trade.... Lord Auckland.
12. Lord Chief Justice Lord Ellenborough.
13. Master-General of Ordnance.... Earl of Moira.

LORD GRENVILLE'S ADMINISTRATION.

ALSO CALLED

“THE FOX ADMINISTRATION,”

AND

“THE MINISTRY OF ALL THE TALENTS.”

From—January, 1806, *to March*, 1807.

Duration—1 year and 64 days.

Reign—George III.

Party—Coalition, but with the exception of Lords Sidmouth and Ellenborough all were Whigs.

Principal Events—Negotiation with France, Abolition of the Slave Trade.

Parliament Dissolved—October 24, 1806.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. Abbott.

1806.—At the time of Mr. Pitt's death there was a general disposition among the leaders of all parties of the Legislature, on account of the critical state of our relations with the Continent, to sink all minor differences in a general union, and to form a coalition government resting on a wide and comprehensive basis. This idea, promulgated and enforced by Lord Grenville, had been adopted by Mr. Pitt, and would have been carried out by him in 1804 if his attempt to admit Fox to the Cabinet had not been frustrated by the King's absolute refusal. Hence it was that Mr. Pitt had been unable to form a strong administration, and had he lived the King would doubtless have been forced by Parliamentary pressure to allow him to strengthen his position by a coalition.

The King, after Mr. Pitt's death, tried to continue the Ministry by offering the Premiership to Lord Hawkesbury; but

that prudent nobleman declined the prize, though he made use of his short-lived power to accept the lucrative sinecure of the Cinque Ports,—an appointment which gave rise to keen and acrimonious discussions. Lord Grenville was, therefore, authorized to form a Ministry, including Mr. Fox. The coalition which was then formed—embracing all the chief talent of the nation—though at the outset it gave an appearance of stability, was little calculated in the end to ensure permanence.

The Cabinet comprised the leaders of the three distinct parties into which the Legislature, with the exception of Mr. Pitt's partisans, was divided.

1st. *The ardent Whigs*, represented by Mr. Fox and Lord Erskine, who were anxious for Parliamentary Reform, Roman Catholic Emancipation, Repeal of the Test Acts, Abolition of Slavery, and Peace with France. This was the predominating party.

2nd. *The old Whigs*, represented by Lords Grenville and Spencer, and Mr. Windham (who had acted with Mr. Pitt till 1800). They were hostile to France and revolutionary principles, but in domestic policy inclined to the popular side.

3rd. *The Tories*, represented by Lord Sidmouth. They were important for their business knowledge and their following. It was for the sake of these that their alliance was sought, and the coalition of these ancient antagonists was not very creditable to either party. Lord Ellenborough, the Lord Chief Justice, who had refused the Great Seal, had a seat in the Cabinet as a friend of Lord Sidmouth. As soon as the Ministry was formally announced, the presence of the Lord Chief Justice in the Cabinet was severely commented upon, and the precedent, which is certainly open to grave objection, has never been followed.

The only terms which the incoming Ministry made with the King were, that the army should cease to be subject to the direct control of the Crown; but, in deference to his prejudices, nothing was to be proposed for the present about Roman Catholic Emancipation: nor would the Tory party have acquiesced in such a

measure had it been brought forward ; and the prosecution of Lord Wellesley, the late Governor-General of India, was not to be a Ministerial matter.

The Cabinet exhibited, in truth, a splendid array of ability, and its measures were anxiously looked forward to by the nation. No change of policy, however, took place in our foreign relations, and Mr. Fox, who now appreciated that peace with Napoleon was at present unattainable, put himself to carry on the war with vigour ; in order to meet the increasing expenditure, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget had to *raise the Income Tax* from 6½ to 10 per cent.

The military arrangements submitted by the Ministry to the consideration of Parliament were important and beneficial, and were, after considerable opposition, carried. The debates upon them are memorable for the admirable candour with which Mr. Fox confessed that he had been weaned from the opinions he formerly held with respect to the force which might suffice in time of peace.

The Ministry acted well up to their professions with reference to *the slave trade*, and passed two measures to prevent the increase of the British slave trade in all its branches ; and, further, Mr. Fox closed his parliamentary career by moving a resolution which was carried by a large majority (114 to 15), pledging the House to proceed in the most expeditious manner possible to entirely abolish the said trade. A similar resolution was passed in the Upper House, and addresses were sent to the King beseeching him to obtain the concurrence of foreign Powers.

The remainder of the Session did not contain much important matter. Mr. Paull continued to bring forward his charges of maladministration and fraud against Lord Wellesley, the late Governor-General of India, but the matter was not proceeded with. After a busy Session of six months' duration, Parliament was prorogued, July 28.

The proceedings against Lord Melville lasted almost through the Session : the actual trial began on April 29. There were ten articles of impeachment, all referring to the same charge, viz.,

that he had taken and illegally applied to his own use some of the public money. On the 12th June sentence of acquittal was pronounced,—he having been declared “*Not guilty*” on each one of the charges,—the smallest majority being twenty-seven (81 to 54).

The recall of Sir George Barlow, the provisional *Governor-General of India*, and the nomination of Lord Lauderdale was resented by the Court of Directors. The King, therefore, under his sign manual, recalled Sir G. Barlow, and Lord Lauderdale withdrawing his claims, the subsequent nomination of Lord Minto was acceded to by the Court of Directors.

Mr. Fox, whose state of health had, for some months past, caused his friends grave anxiety, and had, since June, compelled him to absent himself from the House, sank under his disease shortly after the prorogation, and *expired on September 13*—dying within a few months of his illustrious rival. His death greatly weakened and shook the Ministry, whose popularity had already been waning; and the changes to supply his place were not calculated to give them additional influence. Lord Howick succeeded him both in his office and in his leadership of the House of Commons.

In the autumn (October 24), the Parliament was DISSOLVED in order to strengthen the Ministry in the House of Commons; but as there was no special reason why an appeal should then be made to the nation, the proceeding was considered by most friends of constitutional liberty as a somewhat arbitrary exercise of the royal prerogative.

The ‘*delicate*’ (?) investigation by the Privy Council of the charges by the Prince of Wales against his Consort was commenced on the 20th September.

During this year Napoleon made his brother Joseph King of Naples, and his brother Louis King of Holland: and on October 16 he defeated the Prussians at Jena.

The new Parliament met on December 15, and re-elected Mr. Abbott as Speaker; and, on December 19, the Royal Speech was read. It referred almost exclusively to the war, and the position of affairs on the Continent. Nothing was done before

the Christmas recess, after the debates upon the Address were concluded.

1807.—The great event of the beginning of the year was the **ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.** The Trade had, by the measures of the preceding Session, been restrained within very narrow limits, and the Bill which was passed this Session entirely abolished it,—the penalty of transportation being affixed to every British subject who should engage in it. The numbers were in the Commons 288 to 16, majority 267; in the Peers 100 to 36, majority 64. Well-merited eulogy was bestowed by many speakers upon Mr. Wilberforce, who had devoted the labour of his life to carry this measure into effect. This was followed by a proposal by Lord Percy and Mr. Sheridan for a gradual emancipation of the slaves in our colonies, but it was not pressed for the present against the general sense of the House.

On the 5th March Lord Howick moved that “leave be given to bring in a bill for enabling persons of every religious persuasion to serve in the army and navy.” By the existing law a Roman Catholic in Great Britain could not rise to a subaltern's rank, in consequence of the necessity of officers of every grade taking the Test Oath. To this bill the King had at first assented, but when he became more fully aware of the extent of the measure he intimated to the Ministry his invincible objection to it. The Ministry, therefore, acquiesced in his refusal, and the bill was withdrawn.

The King then required from them a written pledge that they would propose no farther concessions to the Roman Catholics. This they respectfully declined to do, believing that such a pledge would be inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the Constitution. The King accordingly intimated to them that *their services were no longer required*, and the same day sent for their successors. Audience of leave was granted only to Lord Sidmouth, and not even to the Prime Minister, Lord Grenville.

On the 26th March Lord Grenville in the Lords, and Lord Howick in the Commons, detailed the circumstances which

occasioned THE DISMISSAL OF THE MINISTRY, and Parliament was adjourned till the 8th April.

Thus ended the nearest approach to a Whig Administration, which was in power for half a century—from 1783 to 1830. The King had never given it his cordial support, and he eagerly availed himself of the earliest opportunity given him of bringing about a rupture.

DUKE OF PORTLAND'S ADMINISTRATION.

1807—1809.

THE CABINET.

1. Prime Minister Duke of Portland.
2. Lord President of Council..... Earl Camden.
3. Lord Chancellor..... Lord Eldon.
4. Lord Privy Seal..... Earl of Westmorland.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer.... { Mr. Spencer Perceval, Leader in the Commons.
6. Home Secretary { Lord Hawkesbury (afterwards Lord Liverpool), in 1809.
7. Foreign Secretary Mr. Canning.
8. Colonial Secretary Viscount Castlereagh.
9. President of Board of Trade.... Earl Bathurst.
10. First Lord of Admiralty Lord Mulgrave.
11. Master-General of Ordnance.... Earl of Chatham.

DUKE OF PORTLAND'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—March 31, 1807, to December, 1809.

Duration—2 years 270 days.

Reign—George III.

Party—Tory Coalition.

Principal Events—Commencement of Peninsular War, Impeachment of the Duke of York, the Walcheren Expedition.

Parliament Dissolved—April 27, 1807 (although it had only been elected in autumn), to strengthen the position of the Ministers.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. Abbott.

1807.—The Duke of Portland, when he was called upon by his Sovereign to form, with Lord Hawkesbury and Mr. Perceval, a new Ministry, was seventy years of age and in a weak state of health; in fact, it was two years after he had resigned the Presidency of the Council in Mr. Pitt's Cabinet on account of the increasing infirmity of his health. Unlike most of the Cabinets of these times, its strength lay in the Lower House, where Mr. Perceval was the leader, and was supported by Mr. Canning, Lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Dundas. An attempt was made to include Lord Wellesley, but he declined to accept office, though he declared himself a supporter of the new Ministry. Mr. Perceval was offered the post of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster *for life* on condition of his becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer; on this being objected to in the House of Commons, the appointment was only given him during his Majesty's pleasure.

On the meeting of Parliament after the adjournment, the dismissal of the late Ministry, and the causes of it, were, of course, the first and most anxious subjects of debate. On April 9 Mr. Brand moved, “That it was contrary to their first duties for any servants of the Crown to restrain themselves by any pledge from offering the King any advice which circumstances might render necessary.” A very interesting debate ensued in which Mr. Perceval positively declared that the King had not been

advised by any of his colleagues previous to the dismissal of the late Ministry. The motion was negatived by a majority of 82 (258 to 226). A similar motion was negatived in the Lords by a majority of 81 (171 to 90). Feeling this majority insufficient wherewith to carry on the Government at this arduous crisis, the Ministry resolved on appealing to the country; and on the 27th April Parliament was prorogued, and on the 29th it was dissolved, although it had only been elected in the autumn. The elections were hotly contested; the Tories everywhere raised the cry of "No Popery!" "The Church is in Danger!" and the Whigs taunted the Tories with their venality and corruption.

The new Parliament assembled on the 22nd June, and Mr. Abbott was re-elected Speaker unanimously. Amendments on the Address were proposed by Lords Fortescue and Howick in both Houses, by which the late dissolution of Parliament was characterized as being justified by no public necessity. The amendment was defeated in the Lords by 160 to 67, in the Commons by 850 to 155. These majorities showed that, even if the measure were unjustifiable by necessity, it had been most successful in obtaining a strong party for the Ministry in the House of Commons. Parliament sat till August 14th, but nothing of importance occurred before the prorogation.

Mr. Canning being placed in the Foreign Office, at once endeavoured to lend help to Russia and Prussia against France; but his succours came too late, for the battle of Friedland had been fought in June, and immediately afterwards the Emperors met at Tilsit and concluded *their treaty*, through which Napoleon hoped to paralyse the trade of England. Mr. Canning learnt that by a secret article in this treaty, the Danish fleet was to be seized for the war by France; he therefore at once peremptorily demanded the delivery of the fleet, and on refusal he despatched Admiral Gambier and Lord Cathcart to bombard Copenhagen.

Subsequent to the Treaty of Tilsit, Napoleon seemed to be extending his "Continental system," which was intended to be a check upon English influence and commerce.

In October the treaty between Spain (so called) and France for the partition of Portugal was signed, and the French army

entered Spain *en route* for Portugal; our Peninsular War may be said to have immediately commenced from this date.

1808.—Parliament opened January 21. The Speech from the Throne referred entirely to the situation of affairs on the Continent; and the debates on the Address turned on the question of our justification in going to war with Denmark. In this and some subsequent divisions the majority of the House of Commons supported the conduct of Ministers, and voted thanks to those employed in the attack on Copenhagen. There was a majority of 145 (258 to 108) against Mr. Ponsonby's motion for papers, which was virtually for a vote of censure upon Ministers. A similar motion in the House of Lords gave Ministers a majority of 57 (105 to 48). Motions with reference to the legality and justice of the Orders in Council relating to the merchant ships of the enemy, and of those nations that traded with the enemy, were brought forward with a similar result.

The attention of the House was again called this Session to the charges brought against the Marquis Wellesley's conduct in India. The subject was introduced by Sir John Anstruther and Lord Folkestone; but their motion was negatived by a large majority.

The last important subject discussed during this Session, and the principal topic in the closing Speech from the Throne, was the *condition of Spain*, where a part of the nation were loyally struggling against the tyranny of France, and therefore were no longer to be regarded as the enemies, but as the allies of Great Britain. Parliament was prorogued on the 4th July.

The Peninsular War continued, and after the defeat of the French at Vimiera, the *Convention of Cintra* was agreed to, by which the French General Junot was allowed, with all his forces, to evacuate Portugal. The Convention was received with great dissatisfaction in England.

From the beginning of this year Mr. George Ponsonby became Whig leader in the House of Commons, in succession to Lord Howick, who had succeeded his father as Earl Grey; Lord Howick having been Whig leader since the death of Mr. Fox.

1809.—Parliament met January 18. In the Speech read by the Commissioners in the name of the King, it was stated that a negotiation proposed by the Governments of Russia and France had to be rejected, as it had required the abandonment of the cause of Spain, which nation his Majesty would strenuously support as long as they continued true to themselves. Disapprobation of the Convention of Cintra was also expressed, as well as a determination to carry on the Peninsular War with vigour. The Address in reply was carried in both Houses after some opposition.

On the 23rd January, motions in both Houses for thanks to Sir Arthur Wellesley and the army for their skill and valour, particularly in the battle of Vimiera, were agreed to.

The news of the *battle of Corunna*, on January 16, and the lamented *death of Sir John Moore*, called forth much feeling in this country, and a well-merited eulogium upon him was spoken by Lord Liverpool.

The *campaign in Spain*, and the conduct of the Ministry with reference to it, was formally brought under the notice of the House of Commons by Mr. Ponsonby on February 24, and Sir Arthur Wellesley himself explained in the House his views and motives of action throughout the expedition. But the Ministry obtained a majority of 98 (220 to 127). In his Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer provided for a special loan of eleven millions to meet the war expenses, and the war taxes were raised to nineteen millions. The morality of *State lotteries* was one of the subjects discussed in the debate on the Budget; but on a division, 90 voted for the lotteries and 86 against them. The attention of Parliament and the country was, for a time, diverted from the consideration of Continental affairs by the *impeachment of His Royal Highness the Duke of York*, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, who was accused by Mr. Wardle, a Welsh Colonel of Militia, of having bestowed commissions in the army on several unworthy persons at the request of Mrs. Clarke, his mistress. A committee of inquiry by the whole House was appointed, and Mrs. Clarke was examined in person again and again at the bar of *the House*, where she conducted herself with great plausibility and levity; but before the termination of the proceedings the Duke

resigned his office, and the investigation dropped. Sir David Dundas was appointed Commander-in-Chief in his stead.

Attention being aroused to the prevalence of corruption in the patronage of public offices, was now directed to the appointments by the East India Company, and to corrupt practices in influencing the returns of Members to Parliament. Lord Castlereagh was the accused party in each case ; but both the charges were negatived and the subject dropped.

After some debates about minor points of Parliamentary Reform the Session was closed with a Speech from the Throne on the 21st June.

During all the summer the Peninsular War continued ; on the 12th May Sir Arthur Wellesley entered Spain, and on the 27th July the decisive battle of Talavera was fought.

Napoleon after defeating the Austrians at Wagram, concluded the treaty of Schönbrunn, by which the military power of Austria was paralysed. A vain attempt had been made by England to support Austria, and to take Napoleon's forces away from Spain, by an expedition to the Scheldt, which was known as the *Walcheren Expedition*. The failure of the enterprise was due to its being entrusted to two incompetent leaders—the Earl of Chatham and Sir Richard Strahan. Instead of proceeding to capture Antwerp, which was the grand object of the expedition, Lord Chatham invested Flushing, which, after a vigorous resistance, surrendered on August 16. The English troops being decimated by marsh-fever, withdrew to the Island of Walcheren, from which, as the mortality continued on the increase, the troops had to retire at the end of the year.

The untoward issue of this expedition roused into a flame the ill-smothered embers of a conflagration in the Cabinet, and effected a change in the most important offices of the State. Mr. Canning, the Foreign Secretary, had for some time been urging the dismissal of Lord Castlereagh from his office of Secretary of War and Colonies on account of his incapacity. As this was not done Mr. Canning himself resigned, and Lord Castlereagh feeling himself insulted, also resigned, and challenged Mr. Canning, and on September 22 they fought a duel, in which Mr. Canning was

wounded. About this time the Duke of Portland, the nominal head of the Administration, SENT IN HIS RESIGNATION ON account of his declining health, and these changes necessitated an entire reconstruction of the Cabinet.

The Duke of Portland died almost immediately, on the 30th October.

On the 25th October the King entered on the fiftieth year of his reign, which event was celebrated throughout the kingdom.

MR. PERCEVAL'S ADMINISTRATION.

1810—1812.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury and
Chancellor of the Exchequer } Mr. Spencer Perceval.
and Duke of Lancaster..... }
2. Lord Chancellor Lord Eldon.
3. Lord President of Council { Earl Camden.
Viscount Sidmouth, in March, 1812.
4. Lord Privy Seal Earl of Westmorland.
5. Home Secretary Mr. Richard Ryder.
6. Foreign Secretary { Marquis Wellesley, resigned in Feb.,
1812, as he could no longer serve
under Mr. Perceval.
Viscount Castlereagh, February, 1812.
7. Colonial Secretary { Lord Liverpool, Leader in the House
of Lords.
8. First Lord of Admiralty { Lord Mulgrave.
Mr. Charles Yorke, in May, 1810.
9. Master-General of Ordnance.... { Earl Chatham, resigned after Wal-
cheren Inquiry, February, 1810.
Earl of Mulgrave.
10. President Board of Trade..... Earl Bathurst.

Lord Palmerston was Secretary at War, an office which he retained for eighteen years.

MR. PERCEVAL'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—January, 1810, to May 11, 1812.

Duration—2 years and 130 days.

Reign—George III. Prince of Wales Regent.

Party—Tory.

Principal Events—Regency Bill, Peninsular War, Misunderstanding with United States.

Parliament Dissolved—none.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. Abbott.

ON the secession of Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning from the Cabinet, and the death of the Duke of Portland, the remaining Ministers endeavoured to effect a coalition with Lords Grey and Grenville, and afterwards with the friends of Lord Sidmouth; but on their refusal, the Cabinet was reconstructed on Tory principles; the Marquis of Wellesley was called from Spain to fill the place of Secretary for Foreign Affairs, which had been held by Mr. Canning; and Mr. Perceval, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, became Prime Minister, Mr. Ryder and Lord Liverpool being the other Secretaries of State. The rest of the Ministers retained their former places, and Lord Palmerston was gazetted Secretary at War.

1810.—Parliament met January 28. The Address was opposed in the House of Lords by Lord St. Vincent, but was carried by 144 to 92.

In the Commons the amendment was proposed by Lord Gower, and at the division was supported by 167 to 263.

Votes of thanks, after some opposition, were passed in both Houses to Lord Wellington and the army in the Peninsula.

On the 26th January Lord Porchester called the attention of the House of Commons to the *Walcheren Expedition*, and a committee was appointed to inquire into its policy and conduct, being voted for by 195 against 186. On the opening of the inquiry

some debate arose about a document written by Lord Chatham and presented to the King without the usual intervention of any responsible Minister. The paper in question animadverted upon the conduct of the navy. In consequence of the resolutions that the Earl of Chatham had abused the privilege of access to his Sovereign by submitting a narrative to him without the knowledge of his colleagues, being carried by 221 to 188, *Lord Chatham resigned his office of Master-General of the Ordnance.*

After long debates of many nights on the impolicy and misconduct of the Expedition, the conduct of the Ministers was approved by 272 to 232 on the 30th of March.

During this inquiry an animated discussion took place on *the admission of reporters* to the gallery. Acrimonious criticisms upon this interference with the rights of the people were expressed in a popular debating society : this was considered as a violation of the privileges of the House, for which Mr. Jones, the president of the society, was (February 21) committed to Newgate. Sir Francis Burdett, whose motion for Mr. Jones's liberation had been negatived by a large majority (158 to 14), thereupon published a letter to his constituents, denying the right of the House of Commons to imprison the people of England. This led to further debate, and *Sir Francis Burdett was ordered to be committed to the Tower* for a breach of the privileges of the House : which resolution was carried by 190 to 152.

On April 6th he was arrested, and great numbers of the populace assembled and escorted him to the Tower. On their return a riot ensued, in which three persons were killed and several wounded by the soldiery. Sir Francis subsequently brought actions at law against the Speaker and the Sergeant-at-Arms, but they were not successful, and at the prorogation, June 21st, he was liberated.

Motions for Parliamentary Reform brought forward by Mr. Brand, and for the removal of the disabilities of Roman Catholics by Mr. Grattan, were both negatived by large majorities.

Sir S. Romilly's motion for the consideration of a Reform in the Criminal Law of the country was agreed to in principle, but *withdrawn for the present.*

On the 21st June Parliament was prorogued.

The power of Napoleon may this year be considered to have reached its height. Holland was incorporated with France, and he was enabled to concentrate his best troops under Massena, on the *War in the Peninsula*, which was vigorously carried on throughout the year with varying success.

During the year serious difficulties arose between the governments of Great Britain and the United States with reference to the rights of neutrals.

Parliament assembled on the 1st November, and was to have been again prorogued, but in consequence of the death of the Princess Amelia, the King's youngest and favourite daughter, the powers of his understanding were impaired, his *malady returned*, and he was unable to sign the usual commission. On the 20th December, the *Prince of Wales* was accordingly, under certain restrictions, appointed *Regent* of the Kingdom, and on the 28th the Lords acceded to this resolution. The resolution that the Prince be laid under certain restrictions was only carried by a majority of 24 (224 to 200), Mr. Lambe and the opposition contending that the entire Royal power should be conferred upon the Regent without any restrictions.

1811.—*General distress prevailed in the manufacturing districts* during the latter part of the year 1810, and during the whole of this year. Various causes contributed to produce this distressing result. They were the Continental system of Napoleon, the vast changes in manufactures by the invention of machinery, and, above all, the loss of the American market. The United States, irritated by the vexations to which they had been exposed in their commercial intercourse with the belligerent powers, passed, in February, the Non-intercourse Act, by which all commercial connection, both with France and England, was terminated; thus the vast market, worth all the foreign markets put together, which took off British manufactures to the amount of above thirteen millions sterling, was entirely lost.

Parliament endeavoured to give relief by the issue of Exchequer Bills, but the discontent occasioned by the distress continued to increase. A wide-spread conspiracy was formed for the

destruction of machinery, the conspirators taking the name of *Luddites*, and great excesses were committed in the Shires of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, and York, which had to be suppressed by the military.

The early part of the Session was occupied with discussions about the *Regency Bill*. The Ministry, looking forward to the King's recovery, maintained the restrictions, whereas the opposition, knowing that if the Prince acceded to power the present Ministers would not possess his confidence, endeavoured to win his favour by voting for absolute authority. On his accession to power the Prince Regent maintained, contrary to all public expectation, the existing Ministry, but "upon the sole consideration of filial duty."

On February 12 the Prince Regent formally opened Parliament.

A debate took place in the House of Lords on the subject of Mr. Wellesley Pole's circular letter to the magistrates on the intended delegation from the Roman Catholics.

Various bills were passed through Parliament during this Session by Sir Samuel Romilly for mitigating the severity of the Criminal Law. A motion brought forward by Lord A. Hamilton, for securing the Liberty of the Press in India, was negatived by 53 to 18.

The remainder of the Session was uneventful, and Parliament was prorogued on the 24th July.

The Duke of York was in May reinstated as Commander-in-Chief.

The Peninsular War continued throughout the year with great success under Viscount Wellington, and the Island of Java was taken by the British, as well as Bourbon and Mauritius.

1812.—Parliament met January 7. The address in answer to the Prince Regent's Speech was carried *nem. con.* in the House of Lords—and almost so in the House of Commons, for there was only one vote recorded, besides the two tellers, in favour of *Sir Francis Burdett's* amendment.

The royal physicians appointed to report upon the state of the

King's health agreed in representing him incapable of resuming public business, and added that they considered his recovery improbable ; and a bill making the necessary alterations in the King's and the Regent's households was passed without opposition.

In February the *Marquis of Wellesley resigned* his office of Foreign Secretary, the reason assigned being that Mr. Perceval's Cabinet could not be prevailed upon to carry on the Peninsular War on a sufficiently extended scale. Lord Castlereagh succeeded him, and, in the meantime, the Regent endeavoured, through the Duke of York, to induce Lords Grey and Grenville to form part of the Government. The negotiation, however, came to nothing, as it was found that the differences between the leaders of the Whigs and Tories on the Roman Catholic Question were insurmountable.

In consequence of the increase of the Luddite conspiracy and riots a bill was introduced, February 14, by Mr. Secretary Ryder, for the purpose of adding new legal powers to those already existing for their suppression, and was passed after some opposition.

Mr. Walsh, who had been guilty of gross fraud and breach of trust in the Stock Exchange, was formally expelled the House on a motion by Mr. Bankes.

On the 19th March Lord Boringdon moved an Address to the Prince Regent beseeching him to form an efficient Administration, it being virtually for a vote of non-confidence in the present Ministry. The motion was lost by 93 (165 to 72). A similar result befel Sir Thomas Turton's motion in the Commons, to take into consideration the state of the nation, which was negatived by 209 to 136.

On February 28 Lord Lansdowne directed attention to the disastrous effects upon our commerce from the *Orders in Council* prohibiting the trade with France, which had resulted in annihilating our commerce with the United States ; but the Ministry were supported in their policy by a majority of 64 (135 to 71). In the Lower House Mr. Brougham's motion to a like effect was negatived by 216 to 144. The same subject was again debated in May. The removal of the *Roman Catholic disabilities* was moved in the upper House by Lord Donoughmore, and negatived

by 174 to 108 ; and in the Commons by Mr. Grattan, where, after an animated debate of two nights, it was negatived by 800 to 215.

The question of Parliamentary Reform brought forward by Mr. Brand was negatived by 215 to 88.

On the 11th May, MR. PERCEVAL, when entering the lobby of the House of Commons, was SHOT DEAD by a villain named Bellingham, who appeared to think that he had sustained some wrong from certain members of the Ministry. Much public feeling was excited by this tragic occurrence, and liberal public grants were made to the Minister's family; he having left a widow and twelve children only moderately provided for. Warm eulogies on Mr. Perceval's high character were spoken in both Houses.

The death of the Prime Minister was considered THE VIRTUAL BREAK UP OF THE ADMINISTRATION, and a fresh communication was conveyed to the Whig leaders through Lord Moira, and also to Lord Wellesley.

LORD LIVERPOOL'S ADMINISTRATION.

1812—1827.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury	Lord Liverpool.
2. Lord Chancellor.....	Lord Eldon.
3. Lord President of Council.....	Earl of Harrowby.
4. Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Westmorland.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer.....	Mr. Vansittart, created, in 1823, Lord Bexley, and made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Succeeded by Mr. F. J. Robinson.
6. Home Secretary	Viscount Sidmouth, retired in 1822, but retained his seat in the Cabinet without office. Succeeded by Mr. Robert Peel.
7. Foreign Secretary	Viscount Castlereagh, Leader in the Commons in 1821, became Marquis of Londonderry, and in 1822 perished by his own hand. Succeeded by Mr. Geo. Canning, who was also Leader in the Lower House from 1821.
8. Colonial Secretary	Earl Bathurst.
9. First Lord of the Admiralty.....	Viscount Melville.
10. President of Board of Control....	Earl of Buckinghamshire. Mr. Canning, in 1816 (who resigned in 1821 on account of not approving of the Queen's trial, and in 1823 accepted the office of Governor-General of India, but did not go, as on Lord Londonderry's death he went to the Foreign Office). Mr. C. B. Bathurst, in 1821. Mr. C. W. Wynne, in 1822.
11. Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster.....	Mr. Charles B. Bathurst. Lord Bexley, in 1823.
12. Master of the Mint	Mr. Wellesley Pole, in 1815 (Lord Maryborough). Mr. Thomas Wallace, in 1823, without seat in the Cabinet.
13. President of Board of Trade....	Mr. F. J. Robinson, in 1818. Mr. Thomas Wallace, in 1823, retired from ill-health. Mr. W. Huskisson, with seat in the Cabinet.
14. Master-General of Ordnance....	Earl of Mulgrave. Duke of Wellington, in 1819.

LORD LIVERPOOL'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—June 16, 1812, to April 11, 1827.

Duration—14 years and 307 days.

Reign—George III. (Regency), and George IV.

Party—Tory.

Principal Events—Peninsular War, American War, Waterloo Campaign.

Parliaments Dissolved—September 29, 1812.

June 10, 1818.

February 28, 1820, on Demise of Crown.

June 14, 1826.

Speaker of the House of Commons :—

Mr. C. Abbott, created, in 1817, Lord Colchester.

Mr. C. M. Sutton.

ON the failure of the negotiations with Lord Moira, the Regent intrusted Lord Liverpool with the formation of an Administration, which was composed chiefly of Mr. Perceval's Ministry. The seals of the Foreign Office were offered to Mr. Canning, and in case of this arrangement being carried into effect, Lord Castlereagh would have taken the Home Office. Mr. Canning would gladly have accepted this offer—for the Peninsular War, of which he had been almost the originator and prime mover and prosecutor, was now entering on a more hopeful stage—but he eventually declined it, because Lord Castlereagh would not yield to him the lead in the House of Commons. Out of the twelve members of the new Cabinet, ten were in the Upper House, Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Vansittart alone being in the Commons; and eight had been members of the late Ministry: Mr. Vansittart, Earl Bathurst, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, and Lord Melville being the four new members.

1812.—The first act of the new Government was, on June 28, to revoke the Orders in Council about searching American vessels; but the concession came too late to restore amicable relations

between the two Governments, for before the news of the repeal reached the United States *they were actually at war with Great Britain*, having declared it on June 18. On June 17 the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward his Budget. It was passed without much debate. As various violent riots had occurred in several counties in consequence of the numbers of workmen thrown out of employ, a bill was passed through Parliament giving magistrates greater power for the better preservation of the public peace.

Motions were passed in both Houses declaratory of the intention of Parliament to take into its consideration, in the following Session, the laws affecting the Roman Catholics. This was carried in the Commons by 235 to 106, and in the Lords by 126 to 125 ; and such was the state in which the close of the Session left the very important question of *Catholic Emancipation*. There is no doubt that a strong Whig Government would now have been able to have carried through an Emancipation Bill ; for the only motive powerful with the intolerant in such cases is fear ; and at this time the fear of foreign invasion was nearly as powerful as the fear of civil war was in the year 1829, when the Duke of Wellington carried the Bill.

Attention was directed to the frequency of the escapes of French prisoners of war, in consequence of there being no exchange of prisoners permitted. Lord Sidmouth stated that, during the last three years, 464 French officers had broken their parole and escaped, although not one officer of our army had done so.

Overtures for peace were made by Buonaparte, but the terms proposed were such that it was impossible to entertain them. The approaching war between France and Russia was the cause of these overtures being made.

Parliament was prorogued July 30. In his Speech the Regent referred to the exertions of the army in the Peninsula, particularizing the battles of Rodrigo and Badajoz ; also to the French campaign in Russia ; and to the war with America.

On September 29 the country was surprised by a proclamation from the Prince Regent, declaring the DISSOLUTION OF PARLA-

MENT. So early a dissolution had not been expected, as the Parliament had nineteen months to run before its legal expiration, and the Ministry seemed to possess an adequate majority. The remainder of the year was taken up with the general election, which passed off more quietly than usual.

July 22.—Battle of Salamanca. On August 12 the British army entered Madrid.

In June Napoleon commenced his invasion of Russia: on September 14 he entered Moscow, which was burnt by the inhabitants: on October 19 he commenced his disastrous retreat.

From August to November the Americans invaded Canada, and after several sanguinary battles were compelled to retire.

November 24, the new Parliament met. Mr. C. Abbott was re-elected Speaker. On the 30th the Prince Regent formally opened Parliament. In his Speech he referred to the wars with France and America, and recommended for consideration the East India Company's new charter; but no mention was made of the Catholic Question.

Unanimous votes of thanks, and a grant of land, to Lord Wellington were passed.

A grant of 200,000*l.* was voted for the relief of the sufferers in Russia.

1813.—Parliament met February 2. Sir Francis Burdett's motion for a Regency Bill was defeated—298 to 78. The conduct of the *Princess of Wales*, her relations to her family, and the Prince Regent's disgraceful conduct, formed the subject of some discussion in the House of Commons. The subject was introduced by Mr. Whitbread; but led to no results. Public feeling was much excited on the subject.

February 25, Mr. Grattan recommenced the question of the *Catholic Disabilities*, by moving for a committee of the whole House, to take the subject into consideration. After four nights' debate his motion was carried by 264 to 224, on March 2. On the 9th he introduced his resolution, to the effect that these disabilities should be removed; this was carried by 186 to 119. And on the 30th April he introduced his Bill, and on the 18th

May the second reading was carried by 245 to 203. While the bill was in committee, the Speaker, who was strongly opposed to the whole bill, moved that the words, "giving the Roman Catholics a right to sit in Parliament," be excluded. This was carried by 251 to 247, and the bill, which without that clause would have been futile, was abandoned; Mr. Grattan stating that he would again introduce it next Session.

In the House of Lords, Marquis Wellesley moved, March 12, for a committee to inquire into the circumstances and result of *the campaign in Spain*; but the motion was rejected by a majority of 76.

On the 14th March Lord Darnley moved for a similar committee to inquire into *the American War*, and into the state and conduct of our navy, with reference to the disaster which had recently occurred: this motion also was lost.

A great part of this Session was taken up in debates upon *the New Charter for the East India Company*. The bill, granting the new Charter for another twenty years, passed; by it the political power, and the monopoly of the trade with China, were maintained, but the trade with India was thrown open.

To meet the extraordinary naval and military expenses of the year, the customs duties were raised, and *a loan of twenty-two millions* contracted.

The *Treaty with Sweden* was discussed in both Houses, but agreed to by large majorities. By the terms of this treaty, Sweden was to employ 30,000 troops in direct operation against the common foe, and to receive from England one million sterling and other succours.

Parliament was prorogued July 22.

June 21.—Battle of Vittoria. October 19.—Battle of Leipsic, and evacuation of Germany by the French. After taking St. Sebastian by storm, Lord Wellington crossed the Bidassoa on the 7th October and entered France.

November 4, Parliament met. The attention of the Houses was directed, almost exclusively, to the state of the army; the *campaign*; the convention with foreign Powers, and the loan. *Owing to the amazing successes* of the Allies, and the expulsion

of the French from the greater part of their usurpations, the greatest unanimity prevailed in Parliament relative to the vigorous prosecution of the war, and the enormous burdens on the nation were acquiesced in as necessary.

On December 20 the House adjourned to 1st March.

1814.—The House did not meet till 1st March, and at once adjourned till the 21st, in consequence of the pending negotiations with the European Powers.

January 2, the Allied armies crossed the Rhine and entered France; on March 31 the Allies entered Paris, on April 6 Napoleon *abdicated and retired to Elba*, and the Bourbon dynasty was restored.

An interesting debate was raised by Lord Morpeth, on the subject of the Speaker having, in his address to the Prince Regent at the close of the last Session, referred to the rejection of the Bill for the Relief of the Roman Catholics, and having assigned his reasons for it according to his own views of the matter; it being, in the opinion of the supporters of Lord Morpeth's resolution, contrary to Parliamentary usage for the Speaker, except by special permission of the House, to refer to any matter or proposal which has not been consented to. The motion was lost by 106 to 274, majority against it 168; the majority no doubt feeling that, considering the Speaker's high position, it would be inexpedient publicly to censure him, but the superiority in point of argument lay clearly on Lord Morpeth's side.

There were debates relative to the annexation of Norway to Sweden.

Mr. Wilberforce moved, in a powerful speech on May 2, an Address to the Regent, representing that the present convention was a favourable time for the consideration of the abolition of slavery by all civilized nations.

Provision was made for the Duke of Wellington. On July 1 he made a formal visit to the House of Commons, and the Speaker addressed to him a congratulatory address; the ceremony was an impressive one.

The subject of the behaviour and dastardly treatment of the

Princess of Wales by his Royal Highness was again brought forward by Mr. Whitbread. *Lord Cochrane* was expelled from the House (140 to 44), in consequence of his conviction of having spread a false report about the abdication of the French Emperor in order to affect the funds. Being found guilty he was sentenced to pay a fine of 1,000*l.*, to be imprisoned, to be struck off the list of Captains, and to stand in the pillory. The public were enraged at the sentence. The punishment of the pillory was remitted, he was re-seated in Parliament, and the fine paid by public subscription.

The Budget was introduced on the 18th June. Loans to the extent of forty millions had to be raised to defray the fearful expenses of the war.

July 28 : THE TREATY OF PEACE was communicated to both Houses of Parliament. There is no instance in modern history of the termination of a long war by a treaty which was so generally approved as this was. The long protraction and excessive burdens of the war had rendered all impatient to see its close, and its announcement was hailed with universal pleasure. On the 80th July Parliament was prorogued.

The Ministry were now secure and triumphant, and at the zenith of their power. The important *Treaty* had been concluded between France on the one side, and Great Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia on the other. The allied monarchs had visited England and there was every prospect of shortly reducing the public burdens.

Congress held its sittings at Vienna from October 2.

Parliament was opened on November 8. The principal topic in the Regent's Speech was the American War. The Address was agreed to without a division. Nothing of importance was completed before the recess. The Houses adjourned on December 2.

Treaty of Peace with America was signed at Ghent, December 24.

1815.—Parliament met February 9. The European world was startled on the 1st March by *Napoleon's escape from Elba*. He landed at Cannes on the 1st with 1,000 men, and England, Austria, Prussia, and Russia immediately formed an alliance against him. On March 20 he entered Paris, Louis XVIII. having

left the previous day. A war policy was sanctioned, after a debate in the Commons: a majority of 200 (278 to 78) voted in its favour on April 28. The campaign in Belgium commenced, Napoleon invading it on the 15th June. The battles of Ligny and Quatre Bras were fought on the 16th, and Waterloo on the 18th. On the 22nd June Napoleon again abdicated, and surrendered himself to the English on July 15. *He was then exiled to St. Helena.*

The Army of Occupation remained at Paris during the autumn, and the final treaty between the Allied Powers and France was signed November 20. The remaining proceedings of this Session of Parliament were uneventful, for public attention was too strongly directed to the war with Napoleon to give much consideration to domestic affairs. The Catholic Question was put aside by a large majority (228 to 147). Public thanks and an additional vote of 200,000*l.* were passed to the Duke of Wellington. To meet the extraordinary charges of the renewed war a sum of *thirty-six millions had to be raised* by annuities, and the taxes were increased. The general feeling of the necessity of these measures was so strong that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech was received with cheers, and the resolution was agreed to without a division.

On July 11 Parliament was prorogued, the Regent in his Speech referring only to the glorious result of the late campaign, and saying nothing of domestic affairs.

1816.—Parliament was opened February 1. The amendment to the Address was seconded by Lord John Russell. The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved, on the 18th March, for the continuance of the *Property Tax*. There was a warm debate on the subject, as it had caused great excitement out-of-doors, and the House was flooded with petitions against the tax. On a division there were 288 against the tax and 201 for its continuance. This defeat was received with great cheering, for the tax was felt to be very galling, not so much from its mere weight as from its manner of imposition. By this vote a sum of from five to six millions had to be otherwise provided for, which was obtained by advances *from the Bank of England.*

The Session was uneventful, and Parliament was prorogued July 2.

This year was remarkable for one of great *agricultural distress*. Prices were high, and the burdens consequent upon the long war were very heavy; and owing to the commercial distress upon the Continent, the state of trade was very depressed. The harvest was a very bad one, and there was great stagnation in the manufactures. The result of all this calamity was shown in general discontent, and *riots* took place in many parts of the United Kingdom.

The *Expedition to Algiers* under Lord Exmouth in August added fresh laurels to the British navy, and lightened for a moment the general gloom which was fast gathering round our domestic prospects. The result was a new treaty and the abolition of Christian Slavery.

Great satisfaction was felt at the *Marriage of the Princess Charlotte* to Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, on the 2nd May.

1817.—Parliament was opened January 28. In the Prince Regent's Speech the chief points were the recent expedition to Algiers, and the distress consequent on the late war, which was manifesting itself in riots. One of the most noticeable features in the domestic history of this year was *the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act*, both in February and June. The majorities by which these measures were carried showed the alarm which was spread through the upper classes: there were, however, powerful dissents expressed by some. The termination of these disputes brought the Ministry somewhat into disfavour, as they were believed to have really aggravated instead of alleviated the discontent of the people.

An attempt was again made to abolish the office of the Third Secretary of State. The motion was introduced by Mr. Tierney on the 29th April, but was defeated by a majority of 108 (190 to 87).

The *Roman Catholic Relief Question* was brought forward again by Mr. Grattan, but his motion for a committee was negatived by 245 to 221. On the 9th May a similar motion was also rejected in the House of Lords.

On May 30 *the Speaker, Mr. Charles Abbott, resigned* from ill-health. He was raised to the peerage as Lord Colchester. Mr. Charles Manners Sutton was elected his successor, receiving 312 votes against 150 recorded for Mr. Wynn.

Parliament was prorogued July 12.

A universal gloom was spread over the kingdom by the untimely death of the popular *Princess Charlotte*, on November 5, in childbirth. The child was stillborn. The public feeling was hardly ever marked by a more general and heartfelt mourning.

Mr. George Ponsonby, the leader of the Whig party in the House of Commons, died July 8: he was succeeded by Mr. Tierney.

1818.—Parliament opened January 27. The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act was removed, and after debates in both Houses, a bill was passed indemnifying all persons who had acted during its suspension in detaining suspected persons in custody. After an uneventful Session, PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED on the 10th June by the Prince Regent.

The congress of Aix-la-Chapelle began on the 29th September. The King of Prussia and the Emperors of Austria and Russia, with their Ministers and the English Plenipotentiary, attended. France was invited to send her Minister, the Duke of Richelieu, and on his attendance, a convention was signed, October 9, for the withdrawal of the British Army of Occupation from France.

Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough resigned October 21, and died December 18.

Queen Charlotte died at Kew, November 17, aged 75.

At the general election, the principal interest excited was at Westminster, where Sir Samuel Romilly and Sir Francis Burdett defeated the Ministerial candidates: the former, however, died on the 2nd of November.

Mr. Peel having been elected Member of Parliament for the University of Oxford, resigned his office of Chief Secretary for Ireland: Mr. Charles Grant succeeded him.

The social condition of the country and its general prosperity were much improved this year. This was due chiefly to the continued suspension of cash payments till July, 1819.

1819.—The new Parliament was opened on January 21, Mr. C. M. Sutton having previously been unanimously re-elected Speaker.

A great part of this Session was occupied in debates on the *Currency Question* and the *resumption of cash payments by the Bank of England*. The subject was introduced by Mr. Tierney, February 2, by a motion for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the effects of the Bank Restriction Act. An amendment by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a secret committee was carried by a majority of 109 (277 to 168). The secret committee was chosen by ballot, and brought up their 1st report April 5, and 2nd report May 6. Mr. Peel was the chairman. The suggestions of the committee were, that there should be a further extension of the Restriction Act up to February 20. After considerable discussion, the plan of gradual resumption of cash payments was adopted by the House on the 6th of May. Petitions were presented to Parliament by numerous commercial men praying for the continued suspension of cash payments : one petition was rendered the more remarkable by its being presented by Sir R. Peel, who now stood forward to oppose his eldest son, who was the mouthpiece of the committee.

During this year many Englishmen, prompted by love of gain and adventure, sided with the *insurgents in the Spanish Territories of South America*, and helped them to sever their dominion from Spain, in spite of an Act of Parliament which was called the Foreign Enlistment Act, and which was introduced by the Government at the instance of the Spanish Government.

On May 8 Mr. Grattan brought forward the *Roman Catholic Question*, but after an animated debate the motion was lost by two votes (248 to 241). A similar motion in the House of Lords was also rejected by a considerable majority.

A motion for a select committee to consider the Criminal Laws with respect to *Capital Punishment* in felonies, was proposed in a splendid speech on March 2, by Sir James Macintosh, who showed that the work of Sir S. Romilly, for the reform of the Criminal Law, was not likely to suffer by being transferred to him. The motion was carried by 147 to 128.

The question of *Parliamentary Reform* was introduced by Sir Francis Burdett, but the House would not pledge itself to consider the subject next session.

Parliament was prorogued July 18. In his speech the Regent referred to the Reform riots which were taking place in different parts of the Kingdom.

On August 16 there was a *monster Reform Meeting* at Manchester. The meeting was dispersed by the yeomanry, some persons lost their lives in the riot, and hundreds were wounded. Great disturbances followed, and occasioned such alarm, that Parliament was opened on November 28, to call for the passing of measures to suppress the excitement.

On November 30 Lord Sidmouth introduced the “*Six Acts*,” being coercive measures which it was found necessary to enact to suppress the seditious feeling that was becoming prevalent. These acts were for the more speedy execution of justice in cases of misdemeanor, to prevent military training, to punish libels, an act for seizing arms, a stamp act, and an act to prevent seditious meetings. They passed with large majorities, though there was much opposition.

This year, which had commenced under more favourable auspices than had been known for several years, terminated amidst much distress and wide-spread dissatisfaction. Some have considered that this national distress was mainly caused by the premature resumption of cash payments by the Bank, which brought in its train a series of embarrassments, national and social, financial and political. The winter was a very hard one, and the coercive measures of the Government did not tend to pacify the public discontent.

1820.—The situation of the country at the commencement of the year was more tranquil than the violent popular agitation of the preceding months would have given reason to expect.

On January 28 the Duke of Kent died; and on January 29 GEORGE III. DIED, when the Prince Regent ascended the throne as GEORGE IV.

Parliament met February 17. The only thing of importance

that happened was Mr. Brougham's reference to the omission of Queen Caroline's name from the Liturgy, which was the result of the determination of her pure-minded husband, that she should never be called Queen of England. Nothing followed from this discussion, and owing to the demise of the Crown, PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED March 14.

The *Cato Street Conspirators*, who had plotted to assassinate the Ministers of the Crown, were arrested February 28, and Thistlewood, the leader, and four others, were condemned as traitors and executed May 1. About the time of their trial serious disturbances broke out in Scotland and Yorkshire, but were speedily suppressed.

After the general election the new Parliament met, April 21.

Mr. Grattan, the most eloquent of the Irish members of Parliament, and the leading advocate of Liberal principles, died June 6.

The debates in Parliament present this year few topics of general moment, in consequence of the engrossing interest of *the proceedings against Queen Caroline*.

One of the first acts of the King, after his accession, was to attempt to procure a divorce from his Consort, Caroline of Brunswick. She had been separated from him since the year 1814. On her proceeding to live abroad spies were set to endeavour to procure evidence against her. Our ambassadors abroad were instructed not to recognize her, and on the King's accession her name was omitted from the Liturgy. She then determined on returning to England, and arrived on the 6th June, the very day on which Lord Liverpool had opened an inquiry into her conduct in the House of Lords. Her arrival in London was the scene of a popular triumph, and the Ministry and the King were greatly embarrassed by it. In July a Bill of Pains and Penalties was brought in, which was to deprive her of her rights and privileges as Queen, and to dissolve the marriage. In the trial which ensued Mr. Brougham, Mr. Denman, and Dr. Lushington acted as her counsel. She was charged in particular with adultery with *one Bergami*, a menial servant. Several Italian witnesses were examined, and it cannot be doubted that her conduct in Italy had

gone beyond the bounds of discretion ; but the witnesses were of a low class and frequently equivocated : and there was naturally strong popular feeling in her favour. At the third reading of the bill, on November 10, the majority in its favour in the House of Lords had fallen to 9, and as the bill had still to pass the Commons, the Ministers knowing that it would inevitably be rejected, abandoned it. The popular feeling, which, throughout the whole proceedings, had manifested itself very warmly whenever the Queen appeared, was expressed by a general illumination, which lasted for three nights, November 10, 11, and 12 ; and on the 29th the Queen went in State to St. Paul's.

In consequence of these proceedings Parliament adjourned on August 21 for four weeks ; again, on the 18th September, till the 17th October ; and on the latter date again, to the 23rd November. On that day, owing to the abandonment of the bill by the Government, Parliament was to be prorogued. The Deputy Usher of the Black Rod entered the House of Commons with the King's message just as Mr. Denman was rising to read a message from the Queen. The usher was called upon to withdraw, but read his message during a scene of great uproar, his voice being inaudible. The Speaker then left the chair and walked out of the House amidst vehement cries of "Shame !" Parliament was then prorogued, in the name of the King, by the Lord Chancellor, but there was no *Speech delivered*.

No measure probably was ever introduced into Parliament in the success of which the Crown took a deeper interest, than this bill for the degradation of the Queen, and the fact that the Ministry were forced to abandon it, is a proof that the whole power of the Crown and the Ministry is unavailing in any point against which the popular prejudice has been roused.

1821.—Parliament was opened, January 28, by the King. Before the meeting of Parliament, MR. CANNING, who was President of the Board of Control, RESIGNED HIS SEAT in the Cabinet, as he was unable to agree in the Ministerial policy with reference to the persecution of the Queen : he was succeeded by Mr. Bragge Bathurst, after the post had been declined by Mr. Peel. The

rest of the Cabinet weathered the storm of unpopularity which the Queen's trial had brought upon them. A debate that ensued upon the Marquis of Tavistock's motion, which was to the effect that the Ministry were not justified in their late proceedings against the Queen, seemed to show that, though force of eloquence and sound reasoning were on one side, force of numbers were greatly in favour of the Ministry ; for Lord Tavistock's motion was defeated by 824 to 178. The division took place at half-past six on the morning of the 6th February.

On the 13th February Mr. Smith's motion to place her Majesty's name in the Liturgy was negatived by 298 to 178.

An annuity of 50,000*l.* a year was voted to the Queen.

Sir James Macintosh continued in this and other Sessions to labour to improve the Criminal Law, and to carry on the work begun by Sir S. Romilly.

On February 28 Mr. Plunkett brought forward a motion for *Roman Catholic Emancipation*. The debate gave opportunity for a noble speech by Mr. Canning in favour of the second reading. Mr. Wilberforce and Sir James Macintosh spoke on the same side. Mr. Peel was the principal speaker against the bill. The debate is memorable as being the first occasion on which *a majority for Catholic Emancipation was obtained*—254 to 243. But the bill, having passed through committee, was rejected by the Lords on the second reading,—the numbers being 159 to 120. If the measure could have become law this Session, it would have been received by Ireland as a boon ; whereas, it was in 1829 a thankless favour, wrung from England by her fears.

Lord John Russell brought in a bill for gradual Parliamentary Reform, which, though rejected (156 to 125), showed the increasing strength of the respectable minority who were in favour of such a measure.

On the motion of Mr. Gooch, a committee was appointed to inquire into the causes of the *agricultural distress*. This, no doubt, had partly been caused by the too early resumption of gradual cash payments in 1819.

Mr. Baring's motion for the restriction of cash payments was *rejected by a large majority*, and authority was given to the

Bank to restore a metallic currency on the 1st May. There was a growing desire on the part of the public for Parliamentary Reform. During the Session Mr. Hume laboured to reduce the expenditure.

Parliament was prorogued 11th July.

July 19.—King's Coronation. The Queen was kept away from the ceremony, and not allowed admission into Westminster Abbey. Shortly after this she was taken ill *and died*, August 7.

Her remains were removed on their route to Brunswick, and an alarming riot occurred,—the populace, tearing up the road by which the procession was going, caused it to pass right through London. Some people were killed in the affray with the guards. The whole affair reflected the greatest dishonour on the King and his Ministry. The plate which, by her will, was placed upon her coffin, with the inscription, “Here lies Caroline, the injured Queen of England,” was torn off by the authorities.

1822.—At the beginning of this year there were some changes in the Cabinet, for the Ministry felt that in consequence of the unpopularity they had incurred from their policy with regard to the Queen, which had nearly caused their overthrow, it was necessary for them to obtain some accession of strength. They endeavoured, therefore, to *form a union with the Grenville Whig party*. Lord Grenville himself had retired from public life; but Mr. C. W. Wynne was placed at the head of the Board of Control, and the Marquis of Buckingham was raised to a dukedom. This union excited some clamour among the Whigs, who deemed it a betrayal of principle. At the same time *Lord Sidmouth* retired from active employment, though he retained his seat in the Cabinet. He was succeeded in his office of Home Secretary by *Mr. Peel*, who, it was thought, would make an effective co-operator in the House of Commons with Lord Londonderry, who, up to this time, had been the only leading Cabinet Minister there. Great changes were also made in Ireland, where the Marquis Wellesley was made Lord-Lieutenant, and Mr. Plunkett Attorney-General. These changes would prove, it was hoped, conciliatory to the Roman Catholics, and were regarded as the commencement of a new system of policy in

Ireland. But these hopes were frustrated by the increasing violence of the *riots and outrages* in that country. There were numerous riots, some collisions with the military, and the whole country was in an insecure and unquiet state : this, no doubt, was partly owing to the high prices and general distress.

Parliament opened February 5. The attention of the House was at first chiefly directed to the state of Ireland. Owing to its lawless condition, a Bill for the *Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act* till the 1st August was introduced by the Government, and carried after strong resistance—195 to 68.

A new cause of misery arose in April by the failure of the potato crop, which caused a dreadful *famine* in Connaught and Munster.

Mr. Canning, who had been appointed Governor-General of India, introduced a Bill for the *Admission of Roman Catholic Peers* to the rights of sitting and voting in the House of Lords. His speech on the subject on the 30th April was a masterpiece of rhetoric. The bill was supported by Mr. Plunkett and opposed by Mr. Peel. The bill passed through the House of Commons,—the nearest division being 249 to 244; but, on its second reading, was thrown out by the Lords by a majority of 42 (171 to 129).

The question of *Parliamentary Reform* was introduced by Lord John Russell, who, on the 29th April, moved that the present state of the representation required serious consideration. The motion was negatived by 269 to 164.

Lord Brougham's motion on the same subject was, on June 24, negatived by 216 to 101.

On June 4 a majority of 117 to 101 supported Sir James Macintosh's motion, pledging the House in the next Session to abate the undue rigour of the *Criminal Law*.

The *Marriage Regulation Act* was passed, July 1.

On the 11th June Mr. Western moved for a committee to consider the effects of the *Bank Cash Payments Bill*. The motion was negatived, after long debates, by 194 to 80. The debate was remarkable for the speeches of Mr. Huskisson in favour of the existing system, and Mr. Attwood against it,—both *which speeches* contain clearly all that can be said on each side.

On some questions of the *reduction of the taxation* the Ministry were placed in a minority, and they were forced to make numerous concessions in this direction.

The remainder of the Session was taken up in the consideration of *financial measures*, and in passing six acts for improving the facilities for the trade and navigation of the country.

Parliament was prorogued on August 6.

On August 12 LORD LONDONDERRY, in a temporary fit of insanity, committed suicide. Some of the populace behaved disgracefully at his funeral, at Westminster Abbey, on August 20.

On the subject of his death, Sir A. Alison says,—“He was the last Minister in Great Britain who really governed the State. Thenceforward men were guided not by what they thought right, but by what was practicable;—thenceforward the age of great causes succeeded the age of great men; public opinion became irresistible; the Press ruled alike the Cabinet and the Legislature on all important questions; where the people were strongly roused their voice became omnipotent.” This certainly has not been universally true; it was not the popular voice nor the Press that either prompted, in later years, Lord Palmerston’s foreign policy, or originated Mr. Gladstone’s scheme for the Disestablishment of the Irish Church.

It was some weeks before a successor to Lord Londonderry was selected; but in September Mr. Canning was nominated: having been imposed upon the King by the general voice of the nation, rather than selected by his choice.

Lord Amherst was selected to go out to India as Governor-General, in the room of Mr. Canning.

1823.—The commencement of the year witnessed some Ministerial changes. Mr. Vansittart retreated from the fatigues of the Exchequer, was raised to the peerage as Lord Bexley, and became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He was succeeded by Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Huskisson was appointed President of the Board of Trade. These changes were exceedingly acceptable to the country, as these gentlemen were known to possess great talents and great liberality of opinion. Mr. Hus-

Husson was a complete master of statistical and commercial information, and his introduction strengthened the Cabinet, although it gave offence to the Tory Lord Chancellor.

Parliament was opened February 4. During the debate on the Address, Mr. Brougham reviewed in a forcible speech the conduct of foreign nations,—particularly of France, which, with 100,000 troops, had invaded Spain to support Ferdinand VII. This speech was translated into foreign languages, and widely circulated in Spain.

The negotiations at Paris with reference to Spain led to a three nights' debate in the House of Commons, during which Mr. Canning delivered one of his successful speeches, and the House, by an overwhelming majority, supported the Ministry.

On the 17th April the *Catholic Question* was brought up, and during the debate Mr. Canning and Mr. Brougham had almost a personal quarrel,—the latter saying that Mr. Canning had truckled for the purpose of obtaining office, and Mr. Canning retorting that what Mr. Brougham had said was false. The result was that the Catholic Bill was shelved.

Mr. Huskisson inaugurated his liberal policy for the improvement of our foreign trade by the Bill for *the Reciprocity of Duties*, which passed by large majorities.

The remainder of the Session was uneventful, and Parliament was prorogued by commission, July 19.

Mr. Canning refused to hold any communication with the *Regency of Madrid*, or in any way acknowledge it. He appointed consuls to the South American States, and stated that England would not interfere with Spain in any attempts she might make to reconquer what were once her colonies; and that, in granting or refusing their independence, he would look not to the conduct of any European Power, but to the actual circumstances of these countries.

Mr. Canning's influence was greatly extended during the autumn by his visiting and addressing some of the principal commercial districts.

1824.—The year opened well. The country was quiet and prosperous, and trade was thriving : and even the country gentlemen could no longer complain.

Parliament met on February 3. Debates took place on the subject of Spain.

On the 17th May Mr. Hume moved that an inquiry be made “ whether the present *Established Church in Ireland* was not disproportionate to the Protestant population.” The motion was negatived by 158 to 79. Of these 79 scarcely any were Irish members.

A Bill granting the *Elective Franchise to Roman Catholics* in England was brought forward by Lord Lansdowne, but was negatived (143 to 109).

An attempt to procure for persons accused of felony the benefit of counsel was rejected in the House of Commons by 80 to 50.

The delays and expenses of the Court of Chancery were the subject of some discussion, but it led to no result.

On a motion of Mr. Hume, a committee was appointed to inquire into the operation of the laws restraining the emigration of artisans, and *the combinations among workmen*. On the report of the committee all the laws on these subjects were repealed. The effects of this were disastrous, for unions were formed on an extensive scale in the manufacturing districts, and numerous strikes occurred. This necessitated the reconsideration of the subject in the next Session, and, on the 29th March, 1825, Mr. Huskisson brought forward a bill which proscribed all attempts at intimidation and violence, and gave summary powers of conviction in such cases.

The remainder of the Session proved uneventful. Owing to the general prosperity the taxation was lowered and some duties taken off: an act was passed for the Amelioration of the Slaves in the West India Colonies, and the Slave Trade was declared piracy. Parliament was prorogued June 25.

The first Burmese War lasted from May 11, 1824, to February 24, 1826.

1825.—The great prosperity of the country which had existed throughout 1823 and 1824 still continued, agricultural distress had disappeared, and all branches of manufacture were in full activity.

Parliament was opened February 8. In the Royal Speech it was announced that the separate independence of the new States in South America had been recognized by our Government; and the attention of Parliament was directed towards remedying the evils consequent on the Catholic Association.

On February 10 Mr. Goulburn moved for leave to bring in a law to amend the acts relating to unlawful societies in Ireland. The object of this was to put a stop to the mischievous operations of the *Roman Catholic Association* in Ireland. There was a warm debate on the subject for four nights, during which Messrs. Brougham, Canning, Tierney, Plunkett, Peel, and Denman all spoke. On the division 278 voted for the motion, 123 against it. The bill was then brought forward. The second reading was carried on the 21st February by 258 to 107. It passed the Lords by large majorities (146 to 44), and became law on the 9th March. The Association dissolved itself, but a new association within the law was formed.

The general question of the *Roman Catholic Disabilities* was brought up by Sir F. Burdett. During the debate in the House of Commons, the Duke of York, in an imprudent manner, avowed his determined disapprobation of the measure. This was cordially resented by Mr. Brougham. The bill passed the Commons by 248 against 227. It was, however, rejected by the Lords on the 17th May by a majority of 48 (178 to 130). In consequence of this vote in the Commons, Mr. Peel tendered his resignation to Lord Liverpool; but after the vote in the Lords, he was persuaded to withdraw it.

Parliament was prorogued, July 6.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had, in his Budget speech at the beginning of the Session, drawn a most favourable picture of the state of our finances, and was able to propose a reduction of *taxation* to the amount of one and a half millions, and also, following out *Mr. Huskisson's Free Trade principles*, to reduce the import

duties: even in the Royal Speech at the prorogation allusion was made to the growing prosperity of the country. In spite of all this the symptoms of the impending storm were already visible, and owing to the currency laws and the vast speculation which prosperity had engendered, a drain came on the Bank treasure, which decreased to only three and a half millions in August, and only one million in December. This soon brought about the GREAT MONETARY CRISIS. Within the first three weeks of December seventy banks in town and country suspended payment. The Bank of England itself had the greatest difficulty in weathering the storm. Every effort to expand the circulation was made by Government, and for some time 150,000 sovereigns were coined every day. The great relief came by the accidental discovery and issue of two million of old notes on the 16th December. The panic abated, and the crash was averted, and a meeting of bankers in the City passed resolutions declaratory of confidence in Government and the Bank of England.

1826.—Parliament met February 2. Attention was at once directed to the commercial panic which had caused such ruin and distress in the country. The Ministry unwisely introduced a *Bill suppressing the "small notes" circulation.* The House refused to listen to Mr. Baring's amendment, and the bill passed by an overwhelming majority. This measure, Sir A. Alison says, "determined for ever the fate of the British Empire." He attempts to trace up to this apparently trivial matter the desire for political change which, thenceforward induced by high prices, has prevailed in the country; and this, he says, has forced upon reluctant governing classes all the great historical changes—of Catholic Emancipation, Free Trade, and the Emancipation of the Slaves, and the entire alteration of foreign alliances, policy, and system of government. The small notes, thanks to the protest of Sir Walter Scott, were allowed to circulate in Scotland.

A select committee to inquire into the expediency of encouraging emigration was appointed, but nothing further on that subject was done this Session.

On the 18th April Mr. Whitmore moved for a consideration of

the *Corn Laws* with a view to their *repeal*. The Ministry resisted the motion, not on its merits, but on the ground of the inexpediency of bringing such an important subject forward on the eve of a general election. The motion was, therefore, negatived by 215 to 81. The close of the Session witnessed some discussions on the practice of the Court of Chancery, but they led to no practical result.

PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED June 2.

At the general election the chief topics at the hustings were the Corn Laws and Catholic Emancipation ; but on the whole the elections went off quietly.

After the excitement of the elections were over, the prospects of the harvest gave rise to grave apprehensions. The summer had been remarkable for its drought and excessive heat, and the price of grain rose enormously.

The new Parliament was opened November 14.

Mr. Manners Sutton was unanimously elected Speaker.

An Act of Indemnity to Ministers was passed for their having, by an Order in Council in September, reduced the Import Duty on foreign grain, in order to abate the impending famine.

On December 11 a message was brought from the King to the Parliament stating that an application had been received from the Princess Regent of *Portugal* claiming aid against a hostile aggression from *Spain*. Mr. Canning moved the Address in reply, and said that the Cabinet had decided on sending an expedition to defend the independence of an ally, and that already the troops were on their march for embarkation.

Mr. Canning's magnificent speech was rapturously received ; but an amendment to the Address was moved by Mr. Hume. After a short debate Mr. Canning replied in a speech even more eloquent than his first, and the Address was carried almost unanimously. Never, perhaps, did speeches delivered in the House of Commons produce such an effect as those of Mr. Canning ; it was in his reply that he used those memorable words with reference to the French Invasion of Spain in 1822, where he said he had called a new world into existence to redress the balance of the old. The effect was electrical both upon the House and country ;

the supporters of Mr. Hume's amendment numbered only four, and out of doors the prompt action of the Government inspired confidence and commanded universal concurrence of sentiment.

The troops were embarked with such expedition that, though they only received their marching orders on the 11th December, on Christmas Day they began to land in Lisbon. (Their arrival averted war; the incursions from Spain ceased; France disavowed the proceeding; and in eighteen months the troops had all returned from Lisbon without having fired a shot.) The House adjourned on the 18th December.

1827.—The internal state of the country was more cheering; and if prosperity had not yet returned, suffering had sensibly abated.

On the 5th January the Duke of York died. He was succeeded in the command of the army which he had held "ten thousand days" by the Duke of Wellington. Parliament met again February 8, and at once voted an Address of condolence to the King on his brother's death. Lord Liverpool moved it in the Upper House, and Mr. Peel in the Commons. The increased grant to the Duke of Clarence on his becoming heir presumptive to the Crown was passed, after some opposition.

From the commencement of the Session expectation had been fixed on the question of the *Catholic Claims*. The Catholic party thought they had gained on the whole by the general election, and the Catholic Association continued to act; but the law for its suppression was not put in force. Sir Francis Burdett brought the matter forward by moving that "this House is deeply impressed with the necessity of taking into immediate consideration the Catholic Disabilities with a view to removing them." On the 6th March, after a long debate, Mr. Canning summed up in a masterly speech, and the House divided—272 for the motion, 276 against it. This adverse vote showed that the Anti-Catholic party had, on the whole, gained ground at the elections. The motion from the Lords was withdrawn.

Even superior in interest to the above was the subject of the *resolutions on the Corn Laws* moved by Mr. Canning on the

1st March. Mr. Peel opposed the resolution, but a bill was brought in which passed through the House of Commons at the time when the change of Ministry occurred.

Shortly after the meeting of Parliament *the Prime Minister, Lord Liverpool, was suddenly attacked by a paralytic stroke.* Although his life was spared for the present, he was permanently rendered incapable of business, and **THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER THEN BECAME VACANT.** The difficulties in the way of appointing a successor were greatly increased by the nature of the Cabinet over which he had presided ; it had been composed of most discordant materials, especially on the Catholic Question, and was alone kept together by Lord Liverpool. Consequently for more than a month the Government remained without a nominal and responsible head.

Although Lord Liverpool was undoubtedly surpassed in brilliancy of talents by more than one of his colleagues, the country trusted in him on account of his unquestioned integrity and disinterestedness. By his removal from office the differences of opinion which prevailed within the Cabinet were freed from their restraining weight ; and men who had willingly acted under the prudent Lord Liverpool, would not recognize the advancement of any rival, thus rendering the choice of a head most difficult. To add to the embarrassment, the King was personally averse to the promotion of the most prominent member of the Cabinet, although the voice of the nation was unmistakeably in Mr. Canning's favour ; his foreign policy having made him more popular in the country than any Minister since the days of the Pitts.

During the *first ten years* of this Administration *Lord Londonderry* was the most prominent man in the Cabinet. During the remaining *five years* the Cabinet was really led by *Mr. Canning.* His fame chiefly rests on his marvellous eloquence and on the foreign policy of those five years. The first principle which he laid down in 1828 was to destroy the power of the Holy Alliance to separate England from the union of Continental Sovereigns, and to make the maintenance of British interests his main consideration. He resisted the attempts of France and Russia to assist Spain in recovering her American possessions ; and he

recognized the independence of the Spanish Colonies and of Brazil. The Treaty of London, subsequently in 1829, was but the result of Mr. Canning's policy; by this treaty the final liberation of Greece was secured.

During the whole of this Administration Lord Palmerston was Secretary at War. Lord Liverpool died December 4th, 1828, having never recovered from the paralytic stroke which necessitated his resignation of office.

MR. CANNING'S ADMINISTRATION.

1827.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer	{ Mr. George Canning, died, August 8, succeeded by Lord Goderich, as Premier, and Mr. J. C. Herries, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in August.
2. Lord Chancellor	Lord Lyndhurst.
3. Lord President of Council	{ Earl of Harrowby, resigned from ill-health. Duke of Portland, in August.
4. Lord Privy Seal	{ Duke of Portland. Lord Carlisle, in July.
5. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	{ Lord Bexley.
6. Home Secretary	{ Mr. Sturges Bourne. In July, he became Commissioner of Woods and Forests, and was succeeded by Marquis Lansdowne.
7. Foreign Secretary	Viscount Dudley.
8. Colonial Secretary	{ Viscount Goderich, Leader of the Lords. Mr. Huskisson, in August, intended Leader in the House of Commons.
9. Without Office till July	Marquis Lansdowne.
10. President of Board of Trade	{ Mr. Huskisson. Mr. C. Grant, in August.
11. President, Board of Control	Mr. C. Wynn.
12. Secretary at War	Viscount Palmerston.
13. Master of the Mint	Mr. Tierney.

MR. CANNING'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—April 10, 1827, to August 8, 1827.

Duration—120 days.

Reign—George IV.

Party—The Liberal Pro-Catholic Party of the Tories.

Principal Events—None.

Parliaments Dissolved—None.

LORD GODERICH'S CONTINUATION OF MR. CANNING'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—August 8, 1827, to January, 1828.

Duration—160 days.

Reign—George IV.

Party—As above.

Principal Events—Disputes and Disunion in the Cabinet.

Parliaments Dissolved—None.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. M. Sutton.

1827.—As has already been mentioned, more than a month elapsed after Lord Liverpool's seizure before a successor was appointed. The Cabinet had been composed of two very diverse parties, the Pro- and the Anti-Catholic parties, and as soon as the pressure of Lord Liverpool's authority was removed, it was manifest they could not hold together. Although Mr. Canning was far the most talented of the Ministers, none of the Anti-Catholic party would act under him; and, besides, the King was determined not to have the Catholic Question raised, and was personally averse to Canning. It was on this question of the Catholics that the Cabinet, after Lord Liverpool's resignation, split and went to pieces; the Lord Chancellor, Duke of Wellington, and Mr. Peel, formed the strength of the Anti-Catholic party, and yet neither of them could claim the vacant Premiership on equally popular terms with the eloquent and talented Foreign Secretary. The two former seemed disqualified, the one by age

and official situation, and the other by his military character. Mr. Peel, though possessing great weight and reputation, was a younger statesman than Mr. Canning, as well as a less brilliant debater. For these reasons the King felt he had no alternative but to call upon Mr. Canning for his advice as to the reconstruction of the Ministry. Mr. Canning, knowing the King's own desire, recommended him to form an entirely Anti-Catholic Ministry, and to exclude him from office. This Mr. Peel declared impracticable, and suggested a mixed Cabinet, under such a nominal head as Mr. Frederick Robinson; but to this scheme Mr. Canning would not listen. The King, therefore, was compelled to authorise Mr. Canning to form the Ministry himself, but hoped, by getting him to include many of the late Ministry, that they would still be at variance among themselves on the Catholic Question.

In reply, however, to Mr. Canning's circular, Mr. Peel, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Westmorland, Lord Bexley, and Lord Eldon, and Earl Bathurst resigned. Lord Melville, although agreeing on the Catholic Question, also resigned; and among the remainder of the office-holders and the household there were numerous resignations. All the Tory Lords were offended at Mr. Canning's elevation, and so strong was their feeling that eight dukes presented a petition to the King remonstrating against his appointment, and notifying that they would offer a determined opposition to his Government. The Duke of Wellington even resigned his command of the army.

The recess of Parliament from April 12 to May 1 gave the new Premier time to complete his arrangements, which he did by selecting his colleagues chiefly from the Whig Pro-Catholic party, although the King still insisted that the Catholic Question was not to be made a Cabinet one. Mr. Robinson was raised to the Peerage as Lord Goderich with a view to his being Leader in the House of Lords.

When Parliament reassembled after the recess on the 1st May explanations were given in both Houses of Parliament, both by the new Ministers, and by those of the late Ministry who had forsaken Mr. Canning. The bitterest opposition to him was proclaimed in the House of Lords. The Marquis of Lansdowne,

however, in July accepted a seat in the Cabinet as Secretary for the Home Department ; Mr. S. Bourne becoming Commissioner of Woods and Forests.

The *Corn Law Bill*, which had passed the Commons before the recess, was brought up to the Lords, and on May 25 the debate for referring it to a Committee took place. A hostile amendment to it, brought forward by the Duke of Wellington, was carried against the Government by 78 to 74, and this necessitated the withdrawal of the bill by the Government, for a second division on the subject gave a larger majority than before to the opposition. Mr. Canning in commenting on this amendment used some severe remarks about its author and supporters, which language was warmly resented in the Upper House.

The principal other events which took place in the remaining fragment of a Session which succeeded the formation of the new Ministry, were the personal alienation of Mr. Peel, who openly raised the standard of opposition, and the bitter charges of political tergiversation which were freely bandied about.

Parliament was prorogued July 2. In his Speech the King said that though the Corn Law Bill had not been carried this Session, its consideration would be resumed early next Session.

Soon after the rising of Parliament Mr. Canning, whose health had long been delicate, and who was worn out by mental anxiety, was attacked by illness from which he never recovered. He went down to Chiswick, to the Duke of Devonshire's seat, and there, on THE 8TH AUGUST, HE DIED (it was the same house where Mr. Fox had died). This unexpected event produced a profound impression through the country, for Mr. Canning possessed in his own character enough to justify the admiration which attended him while living, and the regrets that followed him to the grave. In him Europe lost her ablest statesman, and the Commons of England their finest and most finished orator. Mr. Canning's widest fame will always rest, like that of Lord Chatham, on what he performed as Foreign Secretary. His countrymen will always remember him in that capacity as one who proudly maintained the honour of their country ; and who then, by the mere force of talent, was called to be Prime Minister of England.

On Mr. Canning's death LORD GODERICH TOOK THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT, and was succeeded in the Foreign Office by Mr. Huskisson, who was intended to be the Leader in the House of Commons. The main difficulty lay in finding a Chancellor of the Exchequer. The office was declined by Mr. Tierney, Mr. Huskisson, and Mr. S. Bourne; but eventually Mr. Herries was appointed. Upon this the Marquis of Lansdowne *tendered his resignation*, but by the King's expressed desire he retained his post. The Duke of Wellington, who had felt himself slighted by Mr. Canning, immediately resumed the command of the Army; but no other changes occurred in the Cabinet. It soon became felt that the discordant elements of which the Cabinet was composed would not long hold together when the master-hand of Canning was withdrawn; and the introduction of Mr. Herries proved a new element of discord. *On the subject of nominating a Finance Committee* no communication at all was held with Mr. Herries, and Lord Althorp was proposed as chairman by Mr. Huskisson. As soon as this became known to Mr. Herries, he protested against such an appointment being made as long as he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and therefore properly head of all the Finance Department.

Mr. Huskisson threatened to resign unless Lord Althorp was appointed, and Mr. Herries resigned because he could not remain under such a public slight upon him. LORD GODERICH, unable to decide between them, himself RESIGNED; and thus, before Parliament met, the Canning Coalition Ministry came to an end. It was not the dispute between Mr. Huskisson and Mr. Herries only that destroyed the Cabinet; because, in truth, in the middle of December, before the difference about the chair of the Finance Committee had arisen, Lord Goderich, feeling his inability to fill the place he held, and considering all the embarrassments of his position, had actually tendered his resignation. He took with him from office a high and honourable character, but he left neither his King nor his country impressed with any high idea of his energy and decision, or of his power and skill to grapple with *difficulties, or control jarring spirits.*

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

1828—1830.

THE CABINET.

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1. First Lord of the Treasury | Duke of Wellington. | | | |
| 2. Chancellor of the Exchequer.... | Mr. H. Goulburn. | | | |
| 3. Lord Chancellor..... | Lord Lyndhurst. | | | |
| 4. Lord President of Council | Earl Bathurst. | | | |
| 5. Lord Privy Seal..... | <table border="0"><tr><td>Lord Ellenborough.</td></tr><tr><td>Earl Rosslyn (a Whig) became Lord Privy Seal in July, 1829.</td></tr></table> | Lord Ellenborough. | Earl Rosslyn (a Whig) became Lord Privy Seal in July, 1829. | |
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| 6. Home Secretary | <table border="0"><tr><td>Mr. Robert Peel, Leader in the House of Commons.</td></tr></table> | Mr. Robert Peel, Leader in the House of Commons. | | |
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| 7. Foreign Secretary | <table border="0"><tr><td>Earl Dudley, resigned, May, 1828.</td></tr><tr><td>Lord Aberdeen.</td></tr></table> | Earl Dudley, resigned, May, 1828. | Lord Aberdeen. | |
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| Lord Aberdeen. | | | | |
| 8. Colonial Secretary | <table border="0"><tr><td>Mr. William Huskisson, resigned, May, 1828.</td></tr><tr><td>Sir G. Murray.</td></tr></table> | Mr. William Huskisson, resigned, May, 1828. | Sir G. Murray. | |
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| Sir G. Murray. | | | | |
| 9. Master of the Mint | Mr. J. C. Herries. | | | |
| 10. President of Board of Control.... | <table border="0"><tr><td>Viscount Melville; in August, 1828.</td></tr><tr><td>Succeeded by</td></tr><tr><td>Lord Ellenborough, who, until July, 1829, retained also the office of Lord Privy Seal.</td></tr></table> | Viscount Melville; in August, 1828. | Succeeded by | Lord Ellenborough, who, until July, 1829, retained also the office of Lord Privy Seal. |
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| Lord Ellenborough, who, until July, 1829, retained also the office of Lord Privy Seal. | | | | |
| 11. First Lord of the Admiralty.... | <table border="0"><tr><td>Viscount Melville, from Aug., 1828,</td></tr><tr><td>on the resignation, by the Duke of Clarence, of the office of Lord High Admiral.</td></tr></table> | Viscount Melville, from Aug., 1828, | on the resignation, by the Duke of Clarence, of the office of Lord High Admiral. | |
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| on the resignation, by the Duke of Clarence, of the office of Lord High Admiral. | | | | |
| 12. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster | <table border="0"><tr><td>Earl of Aberdeen. His successor, Mr. Charles Arbuthnot, had no seat in the Cabinet.</td></tr></table> | Earl of Aberdeen. His successor, Mr. Charles Arbuthnot, had no seat in the Cabinet. | | |
| Earl of Aberdeen. His successor, Mr. Charles Arbuthnot, had no seat in the Cabinet. | | | | |
| 13. Treasurer of Navy, and President of Board of Trade | <table border="0"><tr><td>Mr. Charles Grant, resigned.</td></tr><tr><td>Mr. W. V. Fitzgerald.</td></tr></table> | Mr. Charles Grant, resigned. | Mr. W. V. Fitzgerald. | |
| Mr. Charles Grant, resigned. | | | | |
| Mr. W. V. Fitzgerald. | | | | |
| 14. Secretary at War | <table border="0"><tr><td>Lord Palmerston, resigned. His successor,</td></tr><tr><td>Sir H. Hardinge, had no seat in the Cabinet.</td></tr></table> | Lord Palmerston, resigned. His successor, | Sir H. Hardinge, had no seat in the Cabinet. | |
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DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—January, 1828, to November 16, 1830.

Duration—2 years and 301 days.

Reign—George IV. and William IV.

Party—Tory.

Principal Events—Catholic Emancipation. Riots.

Parliament Dissolved—July 24, 1830, on Demise of Crown.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. M. Sutton.

1828.—The new Government was speedily constructed. In framing it, almost all the members of the former one were retained, except the Marquis of Lansdowne, Mr. Tierney, and Sir James Scarlett—Whigs who had joined Mr. Canning in the day of his necessity—but the rest of the Canningites remained; even Messrs. Huskisson and Herries, whose antipathies had been so fatal to the late Ministry, became members of the new one. Thus was the Ministry restored to very much the same *personnel* which had held office under Lord Liverpool.

Considerable ill-feeling was excited outside at Mr. Huskisson's retaining office under a chief opposed to the alteration of the Corn Laws and Roman Catholic Emancipation. But on May 19, on a difference of opinion about the disenfranchisement of East Retford, *Mr. Huskisson sent in his resignation*. It was promptly accepted by the Duke. On Mr. Huskisson attempting to withdraw from his words, the Duke said, “It is no mistake; it can be no mistake; and it shall be no mistake.”

His resignation was followed by that of the *whole of the Canningite party*—*Lords Dudley and Palmerston, and Messrs. Lamb and C. Grant*. The Duke, therefore, remodelled his Ministry out of the Tory party, taking in the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir George Murray, Sir Henry Hardinge, and Mr. V. Fitzgerald. During the autumn *the Duke of Clarence resigned* his office of *Lord High Admiral*, in consequence of a remonstrance being made to

his costly marine shows. Lord Melville was consequently reinstated at the Admiralty, and Lord Ellenborough succeeded him at the Board of Control.

Parliament met January 29. In the King's Speech reference was made to the rupture between the Porte and the Greeks, and the untoward battle of Navarino. The early part of the Session was chiefly occupied in personal accusations and explanations with reference to the Ministerial arrangements above recorded.

The Bill for Repealing the Tests and Corporation Acts was introduced by Lord John Russell. These Acts had excluded from office all who refused to take the Sacrament according to the ritual of the Church of England. The Government opposed the motion for a committee on the subject, but it was carried, February 26, by 237 to 193. On February 28 a resolution was carried that the Acts ought to be repealed, Mr. Peel and other members of the Government leaving the House without voting. The Bill subsequently passed the committee, with an amendment added by Mr. Peel, which substituted in the case of Dissenters a declaration in lieu of the Sacramental test. The Bill, after much discussion, passed the Lords April 28, the Ministry and the Bishops acceding to it in its amended form.

On May 8 Sir Francis Burdett moved that the House resolve itself into committee to consider the Laws affecting Roman Catholics, with a view to a conciliatory adjustment. The motion was opposed by the Government, but after three nights was carried by a majority of 6 (272 to 266). Instead of proceeding further, a conference was held with the Lords to ascertain their sentiments on the matter. The subject was discussed in the Lords for two nights, but the motion was negatived by a majority of 44 (181 to 137), and so the matter ended for the present Session.

New Corn Law Bill, with a sliding scale of protective duties, passed.

Parliament was prorogued July 28.

In Ireland great excitement was caused by the election of Mr. O'Connell, a Roman Catholic, as member for the county of Clare, thus defeating Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald, who was seeking

re-election on his acceptance of office. Public meetings were held in Ireland in favour of the Catholic Association, and some in England in opposition to it. In December Dr. Curtis, the titular Catholic Primate of Ireland, wrote a letter to the Duke of Wellington on the state of the country and the necessity of settling the question of Emancipation in order to restore concord. The Duke replied that he could see no prospect of such a settlement. This letter Dr. Curtis sent to the Marquis of Anglesea, Lord Lieutenant, who in reply stated that he differed from the opinion of the Duke. He was in consequence *recalled* on December 30, and was succeeded by the Duke of Northumberland.

1829.—Parliament opened, February 5. The King's Speech, in alluding to the state of Ireland, stated that the existence of the Catholic Association was dangerous to the public peace and inimical to the spirit of the Constitution; it was, therefore, necessary to grant powers to maintain authority; but at the same time it added a recommendation *to take into consideration the laws which impose civil disabilities on the Roman Catholics, with a view to their removal* in a manner consistent with the full security of our Establishments in Church and State. This took the nation by surprise. Up to this time none had known that his Majesty's Ministers intended to recommend to Parliament an entire abandonment of the principle which both the Premier and the Leader of the House of Commons had, up to the close of last year, determinedly upheld; and there can be no doubt that the disingenuousness of their conduct lowered the characters of the Duke of Wellington and Sir R. Peel in public estimation.

The first act of the House was the *suppression of the Catholic Association*. This bill was introduced by Mr. Peel, and passed without a division; but before it became law the Association forestalled it, and declared itself dissolved, as its objects had been already fulfilled by the Government Bill of Relief to Catholics.

In consequence of this change of policy *Mr. Peel felt bound to resign his seat for the University of Oxford*, but sought re-election. Every exertion was used by the Government and the Whigs to

secure his return, but he lost, and was at once returned for Westbury ; Sir Robert Inglis representing the University.

Mr. Peel introduced the *Government Bills for Catholic Relief* on March 5. The main objects of the Bills were to enable Roman Catholics to sit in either House of Parliament, and to declare them eligible for any appointment except Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. The first division for going into committee was carried by a majority of 188 (348 to 160). The second reading was carried, March 18, by a majority of 180 (353 to 178). *Sir Charles Wetherall*, who had spoken with indignant plainness against the Bill, was removed from his office of Attorney-General, and Sir James Scarlett was appointed.

The second reading was carried in the Lords, April 4, by a majority of 105 (217 to 112), after three nights' debate. The Duke of Wellington admitted that the Cabinet had been compelled to yield to the popular will on the subject, being thoroughly convinced that the choice lay between concession and civil war. The King reluctantly gave his assent, and the bill became law.

On May 15 *Mr. O'Connell*, the Roman Catholic member for Clare, claimed to sit, under the new Act, but refused to take the Oath of Supremacy, which the House required, since he had been elected under the old law ; a new writ therefore was issued for Clare.

Mr. Peel's *Metropolitan Police Bill* was passed.

Parliament was prorogued June 24.

On the 21st March there was a duel between the Duke of Wellington and Lord Winchelsea, in consequence of the latter refusing to withdraw certain remarks in a public letter, imputing to the Duke base motives in introducing the Catholic Relief Bill. Lord Winchelsea received the Duke's fire and then fired in the air, and he then apologized.

In May the Earl of Suffolk was elected member for Horsham : he was the first Roman Catholic who took his seat in the House.

1830.—Parliament opened February 4.

Since the passing of the Catholic Relief Bill the Ministers found themselves estranged from a large body of their Tory adherents, and were only enabled to continue in power by the aid

of the Whig party, who were ready to coalesce with them, but expected to receive a share of power.

The early part of the Session was occupied in debates on economical reforms.

The question of *Parliamentary Reform* became, after the Catholic Relief Bill was passed, the question of the day; but Lord John Russell's Resolutions for Extending the Basis of the Representation of the People were (May 28) negatived by 218 to 117; and Mr. R. Grant's Bill for giving Relief to the Jews was thrown out at the second reading by 228 to 165.

An Address to the Crown by both Houses of Parliament, praying for the removal of Sir Jonah Barrington from his office of Judge of the High Court of Admiralty in Ireland, was passed.

GEORGE IV. DIED, JUNE 26th. SUCCEDED BY WILLIAM IV. On the motion of an Address to his Majesty, amendments were moved in the Lords by Lord Grey, in the Commons by Lord Althorp, in order to consider the expediency of providing a Regency in case of the demise of the Crown. The amendments were both negatived—in the Lords 100 to 56, in the Commons 185 to 139.

Parliament was prorogued by the King on July 23, and on the next day, in consequence of the recent demise of the Crown, IT WAS DISSOLVED.

July 27.—Revolution in Paris. Charles X. abdicated and sought refuge in England. The Duke of Orleans was chosen King and ascended the throne as Louis Philippe.

In November occurred the insurrection at Brussels in favour of the independence of Belgium, then under the rule of Holland.

At the opening of the Manchester and Liverpool railway, September 15, Mr. Huskisson was killed.

The progress of the Session which had just closed had separated the Ministry, not only from their old friends, but also from the Whigs, who had kept the Duke of Wellington in office, but whose hopes having been disappointed by him, they came to the general election in a spirit of bitter and determined opposition. The elections, taken as a whole, terminated unfavourably for the Ministry.

The new Parliament met on the 26th October. Mr. Manners Sutton was unanimously re-elected as Speaker. On the 2nd November the King opened the Session in person. In his Speech the King referred to the recent events in France and Belgium, to the recent agrarian riots, and the destruction of machinery by incendiaries. In the debate on the Address the Duke of Wellington declared his opposition to any species of Parliamentary Reform. In the House of Commons the Ministry were attacked by Lord Althorp, Mr. Brougham, and others, but they did not divide on the Address.

On the 19th November the Royal party, with the leading Ministers, were to dine at the Mansion House, but owing to fears of a riot in consequence of the Duke's unpopularity, *they did not venture to go.* Public opinion decided that the Ministers exhibited themselves in a timid, a ridiculous, and unpopular light; and such was their position when they brought on the question of the settlement of the civil list for the new reign.

On November 15 Sir H. Parnell moved for the appointment of a select committee, which, after a short debate, *was carried against Ministers* by 233 to 204.

The next day the Duke of Wellington and Sir R. Peel announced **THAT THEY HAD TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATIONS**, which had been accepted. They afterwards declared that they had come to this resolution not so much on account of the above adverse vote, as because they appreciated that the House had determined on Parliamentary Reform.

The year 1830 has been characterized as the nadir of the Tory party, as the years 1814 and 1815 had been its zenith.

It was just before the meeting of this Parliament that the Duke of Wellington had in vain attempted to persuade Lord Palmerston to join his Ministry.

EARL GREY'S ADMINISTRATION.

1830—1834.

THE CABINET.

1. Prime Minister	Earl Grey.
2. Lord President of Council.....	Marquis Lansdowne.
3. Lord Chancellor	Lord Brougham.
4. Lord Privy Seal	Lord Durham, made Earl of Durham in 1833. Succeeded by Earl of Ripon, April, 1833; resigned, May 27, 1834. Succeeded by Earl Carlisle.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer....	Viscount Althorp, Leader in the House of Commons.
6. Home Secretary	Viscount Melbourne.
7. Foreign Secretary	Viscount Palmerston.
8. Colonial Secretary	Viscount Goderich, created Earl of Ripon, and Lord Privy Seal. Suc- ceeded by Mr. Stanley, 1833, resigned, May 27, 1834. Succeeded by Mr. Spring Rice.
9. President of Board of Control....	Mr. Charles Grant.
10. President of Board of Trade and Master of the Mint	Lord Auckland, ceased to sit in the Cabinet, 1833. Succeeded, in May, 1834, by Mr. Poulett Thomson.
11. First Lord of the Admiralty....	Sir J. Graham, resigned, May 27, 1834. Succeeded by Lord Auckland.
12. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Lord Holland.
13. Postmaster-General	Duke of Richmond, joined Cabinet in 1832; resigned, May 27, 1834. Succeeded by Marquis of Conyngham.
14. Paymaster-General.....	Lord John Russell, joined Cabinet in 1832.
15. Secretary for Ireland.....	Mr. Stanley, joined Cabinet in 1832, became Secretary of State, 1833. Next Secretary for Ireland, Sir J. Cam Hobhouse, who did not sit in the Cabinet. He was succeeded by Mr. E. J. Littleton.
16. Without Office	Earl of Carlisle, joined Cabinet, 1832.

EARL GREY'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—November, 1830, to July 8, 1834.

Duration—3 years and 231 days.

Reign—William IV.

Party—Whig.

Principal Event—Reform Bill.

Parliaments Dissolved—April 22, 1831, as the Ministry were defeated
on the Reform Bill.

December 3, 1832, to elect the new Reformed Parliament.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. M. Sutton.

BEFORE forming the Ministry Lord Grey had obtained the King's consent to his making Parliamentary Reform a Government measure.

Mr. Stanley on seeking his re-election for Preston, on his acceptance of the post of Chief Secretary for Ireland, was defeated by the Radical, Mr. Hunt, but was elected for Windsor.

1831.—Lord John Russell introduced the *first* Reform Bill in the Commons ; and on March 22 the second reading was carried by a majority of 1 in a house of 603 ; but subsequently Ministers being defeated, April 21 (142 to 164), on a question of adjournment proposed by General Gascoyne, tendered their resignation ; this the King refused to accept, but DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT, April 22, in order to take the sense of the people on the proposed measure.

The great election cry was, “The Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill ! ” and nearly all the county members were returned pledged to support the Bill.

The new Parliament was opened June 14, and re-elected Mr. C. M. Sutton as Speaker. The King's Speech recommended the expediency of Parliamentary Reform.

Lord John Russell made his *second* attempt, and introduced a Bill for Reform.

Debates on the second reading commenced July 4. On the third night, i.e. July 6, House divided, and it was carried (387 to 251). From July 18 to September 7 the Bill was in Committee.

In Committee the Opposition met the Bill with every possible obstruction. "Nights of divisions" were the rule. One instance will suffice. On July 12, 1831, a motion was made for the Speaker to leave the chair, in order that the House might go into Committee on the Reform Bill. It was met by the Tories with repeated motions for adjournment, on each of which a discussion followed and a division took place. The House was kept sitting until half-past seven in the morning. When Sir Charles Wetherall, who had led the Opposition on this occasion, came out, it was raining heavily. "By God!" he exclaimed, in a tone of vexation, to a friend who accompanied him, "if I had known this they should have had a few more divisions!"

It was passed September 19 (349 to 236). From October 8 to 8 it was debated in the House of Lords, and thrown out (158 to 199). October 10 Lord Ebrington carried a resolution in the Commons lamenting the rejection of the Reform Bill by the Lords (329 to 198).

October 20 the Parliament was prorogued, having sat all the autumn, the King stating that a Reform Bill should again be submitted at the opening of the ensuing Session.

There were Reform riots all over the country, especially at Derby and Nottingham; but the most serious riot was at Bristol, October 29 to 31, when a great part of the city was burnt and many lives lost.

December 6 Parliament opened. The King in his Speech recommended a careful consideration of the new Reform Bill, which was introduced by Lord John Russell, December 12, being his third attempt in that year. The second reading was carried December 17 by 324 to 162.

1832.—January 19 Mr. Stanley, the Irish Secretary, and Mr. Jeffrey, the Lord Advocate, introduced, respectively, the Irish and Scotch Reform Bills. The Reform Bill was in Committee from January 20 to March 10. The third reading was carried, March 19 by 355 to 239.

From April 9 to 13, there were Reform Debates in the House of Lords, the debate lasting till 7 A.M., when the second reading was

carried by 184 to 175 ; but on 7th May the Ministers were defeated in the Lords on Lord Lyndhurst's amendment (115 to 151), and consequently TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATIONS, unless the King would create a batch of New Peers. The King sent for the Duke of Wellington, Lord Lyndhurst, and Sir R. Peel, but they failed in forming an Administration, and the former Ministers were accordingly recalled, May 17 ; Lord Grey stating that their retention of office must depend on the conviction of being able to carry the Reform Bill unimpaired.

The Reform Bill then silently passed the House of Lords, and was, June 4, carried (106 to 22), in consequence of 100 Opposition Peers (the Duke of Wellington amongst them) withdrawing from the House in obedience to a circular from the King.

The Bill received Royal Assent June 7.

Irish Reform Bill August 7.

July 27.—Budget.

July 31.—Abolition of Punishment of Death for Forgery.

August 3.—Question of West India Relief introduced.

August 6.—Parliament prorogued.

During all this year Ireland was in a very disturbed state, and there were numerous outrages and murders.

After the delay necessary to complete the registration, PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED on the 3rd December.

1833.—First elections under the Reform Act. The country was in a riotous state. 509 Reformers and 149 Tories returned.

Parliament opened February 5. Mr. C. M. Sutton was re-elected Speaker.

Irish Debates. *Coercion Bill for Ireland*, to suppress the disturbances, passed March 29, and the Habeas Corpus suspended. The Debates contained vigorous speeches of Sir R. Peel, Mr. Stanley, and Mr. O'Connell.

A Bill for reducing the *Irish Church Establishment* passed, after long debates, in August, by which the Bishoprics were reduced in number from 20 to 12, and the money placed at the disposal of Government was appropriated to the increase of small livings, *building of churches*, and other ecclesiastical purposes.

A New Charter to the East India Company was granted for twenty years; but the monopoly of the China trade was taken away, and the commercial character of the company obliterated. The Bill passed without opposition.

But the most important of all the Acts passed was that for the *Abolition of Slavery*, by which all slaves in British Colonies were manumitted, becoming apprenticed labourers for six years to their present owners. And twenty millions were voted as compensation to the slave-owners.

Lord Ashley's Bill for Regulating the Labour of Little Children in the Factories passed.

Parliament was prorogued August 29.

1834.—Parliament met February 4. Mr. O'Connell raised a long debate on the Repeal of the Union, which terminated in an Address to the King from the two Houses, expressing their resolve to maintain the Union.

Irish Church Reduction Bill introduced by Mr. Ward, who proposed to secularize the surplus revenues of the Irish Church. On this point the Cabinet were divided in opinion, and Mr. Stanley, Sir J. Graham, Earl Ripon, and the Duke of Richmond not agreeing to divert from ecclesiastical use any Church property, resigned May 27. The next day the King replied extempore to a birthday address from the Irish Bishops, in a spirit of warm opposition to the Bill. Mr. Ward's motion, pressed to a division, was negatived by a majority of 276 in a House of 516.

At the beginning of July, Lord Althorp, not being able to carry through the Commons his renewal of the Irish Coercion Bill, sent in *his resignation* with Mr. Littleton's; and on the 9th July Lord Grey stated in the Lords, that, owing to Lord Althorp's resignation, and a division of opinion in the Cabinet, and his own declining health, he had tendered his *RESIGNATION*.

During his Ministry Lord Grey exercised an active supervision over foreign policy; and so he divides with Lord Palmerston the credit or discredit of the recognition of Belgian independence, and the active support given to the Constitutional claimants of the Spanish and Portuguese thrones.

LORD MELBOURNE'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

1834.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier Lord Melbourne (first time).
2. Lord President of Council..... Marquis of Lansdowne.
3. Lord Chancellor Lord Brougham.
4. Lord Privy Seal Earl of Mulgrave.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer } Viscount Althorp, succeeded his father
and Leader in the House of } as Lord Spencer, in November, 1834,
Commons } and had to go to the Upper House.
6. Home Secretary Viscount Duncannon.
7. Foreign Secretary Viscount Palmerston.
8. Colonial Secretary Mr. T. Spring Rice.
9. President of Board of Control.... Mr. C. Grant.
10. First Lord of the Admiralty.... Lord Auckland.
11. Chancellor of the Duchy of } Lord Holland.
Lancaster }
12. Paymaster-General..... Lord John Russell.
13. Commissioner of Woods and } Sir J. C. Hobhouse.
Forests }
14. Master of the Mint Mr. J. Abercromby.
15. Secretary at War Mr. Edward Ellice.

LORD MELBOURNE'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

From—July 11, 1834, to November 14, 1834.

Duration—128 days.

Reign—William IV.

Party—Whig.

Principal Events—None.

Parliaments Dissolved—None.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. C. M. Sutton.

1834.—On 17th July Lord Melbourne appeared as head of what was called the New Administration, but which really was Lord Grey's Cabinet with alterations in the offices of Lord Privy Seal, Treasury, and Home Office; and Sir J. C. Hobhouse had a seat in the Cabinet as Commissioner of the Woods and Forests. Lord Althorp easily persuaded himself to return to the Exchequer and the Leadership of the House of Commons.

A fresh *Coercion Bill*, slightly modified from the former, was introduced by Ministers, who were much assailed for tergiversation in retaining their places at the expense of their principles. After opposition from Mr. O'Connell and others, the Bill finally passed, July 29.

Irish Church Temporalities Act passed.

Poor Law Amendment Act, which had been introduced by the late Government, was passed. Commissioners appointed.

Jewish Disabilities Bill passed in the Commons, rejected by the Lords.

August 15.—King prorogued Parliament.

Before the prorogation the weakness and vacillation of the Government were apparent, and their existence depended only on the support of those who did not conceal their contempt, *i. e.* Mr. O'Connell and his party. The reputation of the Cabinet was lowered by the hostility of the Press in general, and by Lord Brougham's injudicious speeches during the autumn. On November

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

1834—1835.

THE CABINET.

1. Prime Minister and Chancellor
of the Exchequer } Sir Robert Peel (first time).
2. Lord President of Council Earl Rosslyn.
3. Lord Chancellor Lord Lyndhurst.
4. Lord Privy Seal Lord Wharncliffe.
5. Home Secretary Mr. Henry Goulburn.
6. Foreign Secretary { Duke of Wellington, Leader of the
House of Lords.
7. War and Colonial Secretary.... Earl of Aberdeen.
8. First Lord of the Admiralty.... Earl de Grey.
9. President of Board of Control Lord Ellenborough.
10. President of Board of Trade
and Master of the Mint..... } Mr. Alexander Baring.
11. Paymaster of the Forces Sir Edward Knatchbull.
12. War Secretary Mr. J. C. Herries.
13. Master-General of Ordnance.... Sir George Murray.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

From—November, 1834, to April 18, 1835.

Duration—40 days.

Reign—William IV.

Party—Tory.

Principal Events—None.

Parliament Dissolved—December 30, 1834, to strengthen the position of the Ministry.

Speaker of the House of Commons :—

Sir C. M. Sutton, created Viscount Canterbury, February, 1835.

Mr. James Abercromby.

1834.—On the dismissal of Lord Melbourne's Administration the King, on November 15, sent for the Duke of Wellington, who advised him to intrust the Government to Sir Robert Peel. Sir Robert was then in Italy, but he was at once communicated with, and until his arrival the Duke carried on the Government, singly discharging, in his own person, the duties of the Cabinet and the Secretaries. The messenger arrived in Rome on the 25th of November, and by the 9th December Sir Robert Peel had an audience with the King and accepted the office of Prime Minister. He made unsuccessful overtures to Lord Stanley and Sir J. Graham to join his Cabinet. By the end of December his official arrangements were completed. On December 30 PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED.

1835.—Parliament opened on February 19. The Opposition carried the election of Mr. J. Abercromby, Master of the Mint in the late Ministry, as Speaker of the House, against Sir Charles Manners Sutton, after a close division, 316 to 306. The latter was raised to the Peerage as Viscount Canterbury. There were warm debates in both Houses on the Address, with reference to the manner of the change of Ministry. The amendment on the Address was carried by a majority of 7 against the Government in a

House of 611 ; but Sir Robert Peel declared that an unfavourable vote would not induce him to resign. The Marquis of Londonderry, who had been nominated Ambassador at St. Petersburg, declined the appointment in consequence of its general condemnation in the House of Commons.

Ecclesiastical Commission appointed.

Long debates ensued on the subject—brought forward by the Opposition—of appropriating the *surplus revenues of the Irish Church* to other than strictly Ecclesiastical purposes, during which the Ministry introduced their Tithe Bill for Ireland. The Ministry were defeated on April 2 by a majority of 33 in a House of 611, on April 6 by a majority of 25 in a House of 499, and on April 7 by a majority of 27 in a House of 543, and so on. April 8, Sir Robert Peel, being unable to govern the country in the face of a hostile majority in the House of Commons, told the House that the Government had reluctantly TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATION of office ; and the same day the Duke of Wellington made a similar statement in the Lords.

From this failure of the first Administration of Sir Robert Peel it is apparent how utterly incapable of accomplishing any good, or of commanding general respect, must be any Ministry, however talented its head, without a majority in the House of Commons. In fact, a Government in a minority is a state of things inconsistent with the working of the English constitution ; but Sir Robert Peel had proved himself a most skilful and efficient leader of the Tory party.

LORD MELBOURNE'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

1835—1841.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury Lord Melbourne (second time).
2. Lord President of Council Lord Lansdowne.
3. First Lord of the Admiralty { Lord Auckland.
Earl Minto, September, 1835.
4. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster { Lord Holland, died October 22, 1840.
Sir George Grey, June, 1841.
5. Commissioner of Woods and Forests and Lord Privy Seal { Viscount Duncannon. In August, 1839, he resigned the Privy Seal, but remained in the Cabinet as First Commissioner of Land Revenue.
- 6 Home Secretary { Lord John Russell, Leader in the House of Commons.
Marquis of Normanby, in 1839.
7. Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston.
8. Colonial Secretary { Mr. Charles Grant, created Lord Glenelg.
Lord John Russell, in 1839.
9. Secretary for India Sir J. C. Hobhouse.
10. War Secretary { Viscount Howick, resigned from disagreement about the changes in the Cabinet.
Mr. T. B. Macaulay, September, 1839.
11. President of Board of Trade.... { Mr. Poulett Thompson, appointed Governor-General of Canada:
Mr. Henry Labouchere, August, 1839.
12. Chancellor of the Exchequer.... { Mr. Spring Rice, created Lord Mont-eagle.
Mr. F. T. Baring, August, 1839.
13. Great Seal in Commission { Lord Cottenham (C. Pepys) became Lord Chancellor in January, 1836.
14. Chief Secretary for Ireland { Lord Morpeth joined the Cabinet in 1839.
15. Lord Privy Seal..... { Lord Clarendon, in 1839, and on the death of Lord Holland, took the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, until June, 1841.

LORD MELBOURNE'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

From—April 18, 1835, *to* September 3, 1841.

Duration—6 years and 138 days.

Reign—William IV. and Victoria.

Party—Whig.

Principal Events—Rebellion in Canada, Affghan War, Disturbances at home.

Parliaments Dissolved—July 17, 1837, on Demise of Crown.

June 23, 1841, in consequence of defeat of Ministry on the Budget.

Speaker of the House of Commons—

Mr. James Abercromby, created, in 1839, Lord Dunfermline.

Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre.

ON the resignation of Sir Robert Peel the King sent for Earl Grey, by whose advice the task of forming a new Administration was again committed to the hands of Lord Melbourne. He reformed his old Ministry, but was not joined by Lord Spencer (late Lord Althorp), and he also resolved not again to be encumbered with the dangerous assistance of the versatile Lord Brougham. Lord John Russell was his leader in the Commons.

1835.—*Municipal Corporation Act* passed.

A Bill for *Regulating the Irish Church* introduced into the Commons by Lord Morpeth was voted for by a majority of 37 in a House of 601. Its principal features were the Commutation of Tithe, the closing of all benefices where there were not more than fifty Protestants, and the appropriation of the funds so accruing to the moral and religious training of the people. The Opposition did not attempt to alter it in Committee, and it passed the Commons August 12.

The Lords in Committee threw out all the Clauses, except those for the Commutation of Tithe, by a majority of 97 in a House of 179; and as Lord Melbourne said he was unable to send back to the Commons the bill so mutilated, it was no further proceeded.

with. Parliament prorogued September 10. Hunt and Cobbett both died this year.

1836.—This was a year of commercial prosperity and of much useful legislation. But there were various differences between the two Houses. Orange lodges were dissolved. The Irish Corporations Act, which passed the Commons, was amended in the Lords, but the Amended Bill was rejected by the Commons and lost.

The Irish Tithe Bill, with an appropriation Clause, passed the Commons by a majority of 26 in a House of 554. But the Lords, by a majority of 91 in a House of 185, threw out the Appropriation Clause; the Commons rejected the Lords' amendment and dropped the Bill. English Tithe Commutation Act passed. Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages passed.

Marriage Bill passed; also Bill for reducing stamps on newspapers. Established Church Bill for newly distributing the episcopal dioceses and incomes passed. Parliament prorogued August 20.

1837.—There were numerous commercial failures.

Long debates on the subject of Ireland. Irish Municipal Corporation Bill passed the Commons by majority of 54 in House of 549; but the Bill was postponed by the House of Lords.

Abolition of Church Rates Bill was virtually defeated after long debates. Vote by Ballot, proposed by Mr. Grote, was opposed by the Government and lost by 155 to 267.

The foreign policy of the Government was attacked by Lord Mahon, Lord F. Egerton and Sir Henry Hardinge, and ably defended by Lord Palmerston, who justified our recognition and support of Isabella as Queen of Spain. The Ministry obtained a majority of 36 in a House of 520.

Mr. Roebuck's motion, condemning the Ministry for not introducing more reforming measures, was negatived without a division.

June 20.—KING WILLIAM IV. DIED. QUEEN VICTORIA ASCENDED THE THRONE.

June 30.—Budget brought forward. Reduction of Death Punishments passed: an auspicious commencement of the reign.

July 17.—Parliament was prorogued by the Queen in person, and the same evening was dissolved. The demise of the Crown thus caused the early adjournment and dissolution of Parliament, and the postponement of public business.

The General election returned a Parliament with an uncertain majority of about 16 for the Ministry, who, by the Queen's accession, gained considerable power, for they exchanged the late King's ill-concealed hostility for her cordial support.

November 20.—The Queen opened her first Parliament in person, and in the Speech attention was directed to Municipal Government and collection of tithes and state of the poor in Ireland; it was also stated that the disturbed state of Canada required immediate consideration. Before the year was out information was received that *a rebellion had broken out in Canada*: so the Christmas recess was shortened.

1838.—Parliament met on January 16, and discussed the Canadian affairs. Lower Canada, which was chiefly occupied by French, had revolted, owing to popular discontent on matters connected with the power of the Assembly over the taxation and expenditure of the revenue. The revolt was easily put down by the troops. One Papineau was the leader of the rebels. Sir Francis Head, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, denuded his province of troops to assist Sir J. Colborne and Lord Gosford in Lower Canada. He did this intentionally, in order to leave Toronto in the hands of the people. On the 4th December Toronto was surrounded by an armed body of rebels under McKenzie, and Sir F. Head appealed to the loyalty of the people for protection; the rebels were entirely routed, and the tranquillity of the province was only disturbed by bands of brigands from the United States. Sir F. Head having differed from the Cabinet on various colonial matters, resigned, and Lord Durham was sent out as Governor-General of Canada. The greater part of the Session was occupied in the discussion of these Canadian affairs. Lord Durham's conduct was much criticized, and his ordinance pronounced illegal, and an Act of Indemnity passed for those who acted under it. On proclaiming this Act

Lord Durham signified his intention of resigning. He was succeeded by Sir John Colborne.

June 28.—*Coronation* of Queen Victoria. Parliament prorogued, August 16.

During this Session the Ministry were much hampered by the Opposition, and there was great public discontent at the working of the new Poor Law; indeed, it was clear that public opinion had shifted to the Conservative party.

In October the *Afghan War* commenced, and the British troops entered Afghanistan to restore Shah Shooja to the throne of Cabul.

1839.—The *Chartists* gave cause for grave anxiety. Lower Canada was again in insurrection. The state of Ireland too was, as ever, unsatisfactory; but the subject of the *Corn Laws* about this time became, instead of the Irish Church, the party question of the day. Parliament met, February 6. The most important debates at first were upon Irish affairs,—especially upon the murder of Lord Norbury.

On April 9 Mr. Labouchere obtained leave to bring in a bill to suspend the present *Government of Jamaica* for five years, and intrust the government to a governor and two or three commissioners. The reason of this was that the Legislative Assembly had put themselves in violent opposition to the Imperial Government and had resented its interference,—the abolition of slavery being the root of the ill-feeling, and the proposed bill being required for the safety of the enfranchised blacks. The motion was on May 6 carried by 294 to 289,—leaving Government only a majority of 5. So THE MINISTRY RESIGNED, as they considered it impossible in such circumstances to proceed with the bill effectively in committee.

Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington had interviews with the Queen, but they failed to arrange a Ministry, as they wanted to remove all the ladies of the Queen's household, and to put in others of their party. This indignity the Queen resented, and called back Lord Melbourne and Lord John Russell; and at Cabinet Council a minute was recorded saying that, "The great

offices of Court and situations in the Household held by Members of Parliament should be filled by the Ministers, but not the offices held by the ladies of her Majesty's household." And thus *the Whigs returned to power.*

Mr. Abercromby having, from failing strength, resigned the office of *Speaker of the House*, was created Lord Dunfermline.

The Whigs put up Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and the Tories Mr. Goulburn, as his successor. The former was elected by 317 to 299—a majority of 18. The Queen prorogued Parliament August 27, referring to the necessity of using force to repress the Chartist riots. There were serious Chartist riots at Birmingham, Newport, and other parts of the country.

The Affghan War continued throughout the year. Shah Shooja was crowned, and Ghuznee and Cabul were captured.

In Canada Sir J. Colborne was recalled and Mr. Poulett Thompson appointed Governor-General.

During the recess the Cabinet was recast in order to strengthen it,—Lord Howick and Mr. Spring Rice leaving it, and Lords Morpeth, Clarendon, and Normanby, Messrs. Macaulay, Labouchere, and Baring, joining it.

1840.—Penny Postage established.

Marriage of the Queen and Prince Albert, February 10.

January 16.—The Queen opened Parliament.

January 27.—Lord John Russell moved for an annual grant of 50,000*l.* a year for Prince Albert. Colonel Sibthorp's amendment, substituting 30,000*l.*, was carried by 262 to 168.

January 28.—Sir T. G. Buller moved a *vote of non-confidence in the Ministers.* The motion was, after four nights' debate, lost by 808 to 287,—giving the Ministers a majority of 21.

April 7.—Sir James Graham brought forward a motion condemnatory of the past policy of Ministers with reference to *China.* The debate lasted three days, and the motion was lost by 262 to 271, majority 9.

The Irish Municipal Corporation Bill was passed by large majorities.

Upper and Lower Canada united into one government.

Treaty concluded, July 16, by Russia, England, Austria, Prussia, and Turkey for the expulsion of Ibrahim Pasha from Syria.
Parliament prorogued, August 11.

In September Beyrouth was taken by the Allied Squadron, and in November St. Jean d'Acre was also stormed and taken; and the Egyptians quitted Syria.

The treaty concluded with the four European Powers with reference to Syria was entirely due to Lord Palmerston, and almost brought about a war with France. A general impression arose that Lord Palmerston was a peremptory and dangerous, though able, Minister. But his own party dared not resist him.

1841.—Chinese War continued.

January 26.—The Queen opened Parliament.

There were close divisions during the early part of the Session on the Bill for the Registration of Votes in Ireland.

The Jews' Civil Disabilities Removal Bill passed in the Commons, but was rejected in the Lords.

Mr. Baring brought on his Budget on the 30th April. It showed a deficiency of seven and a half millions. The debates on it, and on the Corn Law, and on Lord Sandon's motion about the Sugar Duties lasted eight nights, at the end of which *Government were defeated by 86 (317 to 281).*

On May 27 Sir R. Peel moved a *vote of non-confidence* in the Ministers, and after five days' debate the Ministry were in a minority of 1 (312 to 311). In consequence of these adverse votes the Government determined to appeal to the country, and **PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED, June 23.**

The Liberals appealed to the country on the anti-monopoly cry. The Tories' chief cry was the feebleness of the Whig Ministry.

The new Parliament met on August 24,—there being a nominal Tory majority of 82. In the House of Lords the amendment on the Address was carried against the Ministry by a majority of 72 (168 to 96).

In the Commons, after a debate of three nights, the amendment was carried against the Ministry by a majority of 91 (360 to 269).

On the 30th August information of the RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY in consequence of the above adverse vote was given in both Houses. Lord John Russell added, " We began in the commencement of Lord Grey's Administration with the Reform Act—we ended by proposing measures for the freedom of commerce. With large and important measures we commenced, with large and important measures we conclude." Lord Stanley complimented Lord John Russell on the zeal and talent with which he had always performed his arduous duties as leader in the House of Commons.

During this Ministry Lord Palmerston had exclusive control over the Foreign Office, and acted almost independently of his chief and colleagues. It was during these years that his name became so celebrated, and represented throughout Europe the power of England.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier	Sir Robert Peel (second time).
2. Lord President of Council.....	Lord Wharncliffe, died Nov. 19, 1845.
3. Lord Chancellor.....	Lord Lyndhurst.
4. No Office	Duke of Wellington, Leader in the House of Lords. On Lord Hill's death, in 1842, the Duke of Wellington assumed the command of the forces.
5. Lord Privy Seal	Duke of Buckingham, retired in Feb., 1842, because he could not concur in the proposed alteration of the Corn Laws. Succeeded by Duke of Buccleuch.
6. Chancellor of the Exchequer....	Mr. H. Goulburn.
7. Home Secretary	Sir James Graham.
8. Foreign Secretary	Earl of Aberdeen.
9. Colonial Secretary	Lord Stanley, in November, 1845. (When the Ministry resigned on the Corn Law question, Lord Stanley succeeded from them, and on their reassuming their offices after a fortnight, Mr. Gladstone took the Colonial Office)
10. First Lord of the Admiralty....	Earl of Haddington.
11. President of Board of Control....	Lord Ellenborough, appointed Governor-General of India in Jan., 1842. Lord Vesey Fitzgerald. Earl of Ripon, in 1843.
12. President of Board of Trade....	Earl of Ripon Mr. W. E. Gladstone. In the beginning of 1845 Mr. Gladstone resigned on account of the increase of the Maynooth grant. His successor, the Earl of Dalhousie, had no seat in the Cabinet.
13. War Secretary	Sir Henry Hardinge, went in 1844 as Governor-General to India. His successor, Sir Thomas Fremantle, had no seat in the Cabinet, but in 1845, Hon. Sidney Herbert became Secretary at War, with seat in the Cabinet.
14. Paymaster-General	Sir Edward Knatchbull died, 1845. His successor, Mr. W. Baring, had no seat in Cabinet.
15. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Lord Granville Somerset.
16. Commissioner of Woods and Forests	Earl of Lincoln.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

1841—1846.

From—September 8, 1841, to June 29, 1846.

Duration—4 years and 293 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Tory, but the Cabinet having been converted to the doctrine of Free Trade, estranged the Protectionist part of the Tories.

Principal Events—Affghan, Scinde, and Sikh wars, Bank Charter Act, Repeal of the Corn Laws.

Parliament Dissolved—None.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre.

1841.—The House met on the 16th September, and Sir Robert Peel announced that he would not bring forward his financial measures till next Session. This determination to postpone the pressing question of the Corn Laws was warmly deprecated by Lords J. Russell and Palmerston, Mr. Cobden, and others. Also in the House of Lords, where the Duke of Wellington, in reply, said, “I have no intention of bringing forward a scheme for the alteration of the Corn Laws. I have not the power of doing so: I have not sufficiently considered these measures, and, therefore, I will not.”

The prorogation took place on the 7th October.

The New Ministry had taken Office under the most gloomy circumstances. Europe was distracted, the West India Colonies were ruined, Canada was dissatisfied, at the Cape the Caffres were hostile, the Affghan War was raging in India, and we had a war in China. But the state of matters at home was more gloomy still: there was great commercial and manufacturing distress, there were vast financial difficulties, with inefficient armaments, an uneasy spirit prevailed throughout the country, and there were serious riots both in England and Scotland.

November 9 the Queen gave birth to a son and heir.

1842.—The retirement from the Cabinet of the Duke of Buckingham, before the meeting of Parliament, gave token that the Cabinet had resolved to alter the Corn Laws.

In January Lord Ellenborough was sent out as Governor-General of India, and was succeeded by Lord Vesey Fitzgerald at the Board of Control.

Parliament met February 3. The chief part of the Session was occupied in debates on the *Corn Laws*, and the Ministerial financial scheme; Sir R. Peel's modified *Sliding Scale for Duty on Imported Corn* was carried by large majorities. Lord John Russell's amendment rejected February 16, by majority of 128 (349 to 226). Third reading carried April 7. After long debates and numerous divisions favourable to the Ministry the *Income Tax Bill* was read a third time, May 30, imposing a tax of 7d. in the pound. Sir Robert Peel was the first Minister, after Mr. Pitt, who acted on the conviction that financial and commercial embarrassment might be removed by the same process. In bringing forward his Budget this year, he appealed to Parliament to make a great effort at once to relieve trade and restore the impaired solvency of Government; and by putting on the Income Tax, he was enabled to reduce various onerous duties.

Lord Ashley's Bill, prohibiting the Employment of Females and Boys under Ten Years of Age in Mines and Collieries, passed.

After the awful disaster at Cabul the *Afghan War* was gloriously ended in October.

In August the *Chinese War* was ended by conclusion of a treaty.

1843.—Parliament met February 2. There was great national distress, and commercial and general depression. The chief debates during the Session were on the *Corn Laws*. Lord Howick's motion, to investigate the cause of distress (or, in other words, to reduce the duty on corn), was, February 17, negatived by a majority of 115 (306 to 191). The debate had lasted four nights, during which, Sir R. Peel complained of the use, by Mr. Cobden, of the words "individual responsibility," and, in a speech of great force, reviewed what Government had effected in

their sixteen months' tenure of office, viz., they succeeded in terminating two wars, reduced the expenditure, pacified Canada, adjusted differences with the United States, diminished duty on colonial produce, and, by the labours of Soult and Wellington, were labouring to establish amicable relations with France.

Lord Ellenborough's policy in Affghanistan and India was much discussed, though the resolution of censure was negatived in both Houses—Lords, 88 to 25 ; Commons, 242 to 157. On May 16 Mr. Villiers moved for a Committee of the whole House upon the *Corn Laws*. Debate lasted five nights. Motion negatived by a majority of 256 (125 to 381). Subsequently, Lord John Russell, June 18, brought on the same topic, when the Ministers again got a majority of 99 (244 to 145).

Ireland was this year greatly agitated for Repeal ; and there were hot Irish debates on the introduction by the Government of the *Irish Arms Act*, which was passed by considerable majorities.

Parliament was prorogued on August 24.

The Repeal Agitation in Ireland was led by Daniel O'Connell, and there were monster meetings : that of Clontarf, on October 7, was prohibited by Government proclamation, and O'Connell and others were arrested on a charge of sedition.

Rebecca Riots broke out in Wales, against toll-gates, in February. An old woman, a toll-keeper, was murdered, September 10. Many persons were arrested, and some punished.

Secession of the Church in Scotland, and the Free Kirk established.

Scinde War. Scinde annexed to the British Empire. Sir C. Napier appointed Governor.

In September the Queen visited Louis Philippe in Normandy.

1844.—Parliament met on February 2, during the trial of Daniel O'Connell, at Dublin, for sedition. Public attention was, therefore, much directed to Irish affairs. He was found guilty, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment and 2,000*l.* fine. (September 5 he was released). Indian affairs were also much discussed ; and the army in Scinde, under Sir Charles Napier, was publicly thanked.

April 21, *Lord Ellenborough* was recalled from being Governor-General of India, by the Court of Directors, in direct opposition to the wishes of the Government. Sir Henry Hardinge was sent out to succeed him.

Mr. Villiers' annual motion for Repeal of the Corn Laws was negatived—328 to 124.

On the Budget the Government were defeated (241 to 221) on an amendment, proposed by Mr. Miles, referring to the *Sugar Duties*. On the 17th Sir R. Peel asked the House to reconsider the subject, and to rescind its former vote. Mr. Disraeli made a most taunting speech on this occasion, but the Government obtained a majority of 22 (255 to 233).

Sir R. Peel's financial measures seemed crowned with success, for he had, this year, converted the deficiency bequeathed by his predecessor into a surplus, and was enabled again to revise the indirect taxes; and as he devoted his attention more and more to political economy, his eyes were opened to the anomaly of the Corn Laws, which stood out more conspicuously as minor abuses were removed.

On the 6th May Sir Robert Peel introduced his Bill for the new *Bank Charter* in a speech of great ability. The bill passed, with hardly any opposition, on July 12. By this Act the note issue was separated from the banking department, and other banks were restricted from issuing notes.

Parliament was prorogued September 5, having adjourned from 8th August.

The *Tahiti* troubles, caused by the high-handed conduct of Admiral Dupetit Thouars, might have caused a rupture between England and France, had it not been for the good sense of Sir R. Peel and M. Guizot, who amicably adjusted the question. During this year both the Czar and Louis Philippe visited England.

1845.—Parliament met February 4. Before that Mr. Gladstone had retired from the Ministry, as the Government idea of increasing the grant to Maynooth College was opposed, not to his present ideas (for he supported the Government measure), but to the principles advocated in his book *Church and State*.

The *Maynooth debates* lasted for many nights. The second reading was carried at 3 A.M., April 19, by 328 to 176. Remarkable speeches were delivered by Lord J. Russell and Sir R. Peel, both acknowledging the necessity of a policy of conciliation towards Ireland. Sir James Graham intimated that the old days of Protestant ascendancy were gone, and that Ministers would not be responsible for the Government of Ireland on those principles. On going into committee on the Maynooth Grant, Mr. Macaulay said, that of all the institutions now existing in the civilized world, the Established Church of Ireland was the most utterly indefensible. Lord Wharncliffe spoke similarly in the Lords. The grant was 80,000*l.*, and an annual 26,000*l.*

Both this year and the previous year the *Railway Committee* business was very heavy, as the *Railway Mania* was at its height.

Irish Colleges Act passed.

It was during these years that Mr. Disraeli first signalized himself by his bitter personal attacks on Sir R. Peel.

Parliament was prorogued August 9.

The Irish Potato Crop failed this year.

The Cabinet held numerous Councils at the beginning of November, and it was understood that they were divided in opinion on the subject of the Repeal of the Corn Laws. In consequence of this, on December 10, *Sir R. Peel placed his Resignation* in her Majesty's hands, and advised her to send for *Lord J. Russell*, who had just put himself at the head of the Free Trade Movement; but he failed to form a Liberal Government, as *Lords Grey* and *Palmerston* would not act together. Consequently, and as *Lord Stanley* was unable to bring together a Protectionist Government, *Sir R. Peel resumed office*, on the 28th, with the same Administration; with the exception of *Lord Stanley*, whose place at the Colonial Office was taken by *Mr. Gladstone*.

1846.—Parliament was opened, January 22. The sudden adoption by the Government of the principle of **FREE TRADE IN CORN** was alluded to in the opening Speech of the Queen, and that of *Sir R. Peel*. The debate on the Corn Laws commenced on February 9, and lasted for twelve nights. *Sir R. Peel* had to

most minute of changes of policy. His own mind had gradually, by the course of events and by the success of his own financial policy whenever the protective duties had been relaxed, been educated to the liberal view, and his weight carried the Conservative Administration along with him. It had been in the autumn of 1845, when the Cabinet met for the indispensable purpose of opening the ports to foreign grain, in consequence of the failure of the potato-crop and deficiency in the harvest, that Sir R. Peel first announced to his colleagues his determination *permanently* to abolish the corn duty. Most of the Cabinet agreed with him. Even the Duke of Wellington admitted its expediency, but disapproved of the principle of the measure. It was only Lord Stanley who left him, and by carrying away from him all the stanch Conservatives, crippled the power of the Government. It was now that, in spite of the irritating taunts of Mr. Disraeli, and the opposition of former friends, Sir R. Peel exhibited all the resources of his unequalled parliamentary skill, in carrying the measure through the House,—generously acknowledging that the benefit was due, not so much to a recent convert, as to its more consistent advocates—especially Mr. Cobden.

The *Corn Law League*, though, like all similar associations, dangerous to public order, was distinguished from others by the soundness of its solitary doctrine, and the great ability of its leaders, Bright and Cobden; who there first showed those great powers which subsequently gave them such commanding influence both in and out of Parliament.

On the 27th February the Ministers got a majority of 97 (337 to 240), and 98 for the third reading on the 15th May (327 to 229). In the House of Lords, after long debates, the second reading was carried by a majority of 47 (211 to 164). On June 25, the very night of Sir R. Peel's greatest triumph, when this Corn Importation Act was read a third time in the House of Lords and passed, the Ministry were defeated on the Life Preservation Bill for Ireland by a majority of 73 (219 to 292). The opposition which defeated the Ministry was composed of Whigs, Radicals, and Protectionists, under Lord John Russell, Lord ~~Grenville~~ Bentinck, and Mr. Disraeli.

On the 29th, in consequence of this vote, the MINISTERS ANNOUNCED THEIR RESIGNATION. Sir R. Peel, promising a qualified support to Lord John Russell's Ministry, declared for perfect equality in the spirit of legislation between England and Ireland, paid a graceful compliment to Mr. Cobden, and concluded by announcing the settlement of the Oregon question.

For the remainder of his life this great statesman maintained a dignified position as first member of the House of Commons, generally supporting the Minister by whom he had been supplanted.

The Sikh War, which commenced November, 1845, terminated after the battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal, and Sobraon in March, 1846.

Thanks, peerages, and pensions were voted for Generals Hardinge and Gough.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

1846—1852.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier	Lord John Russell (first time).
2. Lord President of Council	{ Marquis of Lansdowne, Leader in the House of Lords.
3. Lord Chancellor	{ Lord Cottenham, resigned, July, 1850, created an earl. Lord Truro, in July, 1850.
4. Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Minto.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer	Sir Charles Wood.
6. Home Secretary	Sir George Grey.
7. Foreign Secretary	{ Viscount Palmerston. Earl Granville, December 22, 1851.
8. Colonial Secretary	Earl Grey.
9. First Lord of the Admiralty	{ Earl of Auckland, died January 1, 1849. Sir F. T. Baring, in 1849.
10. President of Board of Control	Sir J. Cam Hobhouse, created Lord Broughton in February, 1851.
11. President of Board of Trade	{ Earl of Clarendon, May, 1847, went to Ireland as Lord Lieutenant. Succeeded by Mr. H. Labouchere.
12. Paymaster of the Forces	{ Mr. T. B. Macaulay. Lost his seat for Edinburgh in 1847. Succeeded by Earl Granville, who till 1851 had no seat in the Cabinet.
13. Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests	{ Viscount Morpeth, afterwards Earl of Carlisle. Lord Seymour, in 1851.
14. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	{ Lord Campbell, in 1850, was made Lord Chief Justice. Earl of Carlisle (late Viscount Morpeth).
15. Postmaster-General	Marquis Clanricarde.
16. War Secretary	{ Mr. Fox Maule, in 1850, had a seat in the Cabinet.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

From—July 6, 1846, to February 23, 1852.

Duration—5 years and 230 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Whig.

Principal Events—Irish Famine, Sikh Wars, Chartist Petition, Gold Discoveries, French Revolution.

Parliament Dissolved—July 23, 1847.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre.

1846.—Lord J. Russell constructed his Ministry almost exclusively from his former colleagues under Lord Melbourne, and took his seat in the House as Prime Minister on the 18th July.

The Prohibitory Bill on slave-grown sugar was taken off,—the Government obtaining a majority of 180 (*i.e.* 135 for an adverse amendment proposed by Lord G. Bentinck *v.* 265); and, before the Session closed, Lord J. Russell carried through Parliament the Irish Coercive Bill, which had been proposed by Sir R. Peel.

Parliament was prorogued, August 28,—the chief topics in the Royal Speech being the settlement of the Oregon dispute, the victorious and happy conclusion of the Sikh War, and the failure of the potato crop in England.

This year was the first bad year of THE IRISH FAMINE, which lasted some three years and more. In order to attempt its relief as far as possible, Parliament and Government did all in their power; all duty on grain imported into Ireland was taken off, and an immense amount was sent over. The subscriptions for relief reached their maximum in March, 1848, when one million of the Irish were living dependent upon charity. In spite of all, half a million of people were calculated to have died of the famine and its effects during the period of the five years from

1846 to 1850. In two years 8,000,000*l.* sterling were given from public and private subscriptions. In the three years (1847-8-9) half a million of Irish came into England, and upwards of two millions went to foreign countries. The population which, according to the census in 1841, was 8,175,124, in 1851 was only 6,515,794.

During this year there was much diplomatic fencing between France and England on the subject of the Spanish royal marriages.

1847.—Parliament met, January 19. The chief part of the Session was taken up in devising means to relieve the Irish distress, but was uneventful, though some useful domestic acts were passed. PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED, July 23,—having had the full duration of seven Sessions.

The general election returned 338 members for the Ministry, 120 Peelites and 200 Protectionists. The latter generally directed their chief attack on the Peelites, who mostly voted with the Government.

Mr. T. B. Macaulay, a member of the Cabinet, lost his seat for Edinburgh owing to his vote for the Maynooth grant.

During the early part of the autumn there were great commercial and railway failures, which caused a *monetary crisis*. In October Lord J. Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorised the Governor of the Bank of England temporarily to depart from Sir R. Peel's Bank Restriction Act of 1845, in order to relieve the money market. And in order to indemnify them for this an autumnal Session was held from November 18 to December 30. Mr. Shaw Lefevre was unanimously elected Speaker. The Irish Crime and Outrage Bill was passed, and, after a long debate on the subject of the Jewish Disabilities, leave was given to bring in a bill by 258 to 188.

1848.—Parliament met again, February 3. The *Jewish Disabilities Bill* passed the Commons, the second reading being carried, February 11, by 277 to 204; but eventually was rejected by the Lords, May 25, by 163 to 128.

The French Revolution occurred at the end of February, which, causing great diminution in our exports, aggravated the general distress.

The proposed augmentation of the Income Tax from 3 to 5 per cent. was abandoned.

March 6, there was a riot at Glasgow; and on April 10 there was the monster *Chartist meeting* on Kennington Common to present the great petition, said to be signed by two millions. The display ended without bloodshed, owing to the admirable arrangements of the Duke of Wellington.

The excitement consequent on the French Revolution manifested itself in Ireland by an attempted insurrection under Smith O'Brien. It was quickly suppressed.

The foreign policy of Lord Palmerston was attacked by Mr. C. Anstey, Mr. Disraeli, and Lord Stanley.

Diplomatic intercourse with Spain was suspended till 1850. Parliament was prorogued, September 5.

On the death of Lord George Bentinck this autumn, Mr. Disraeli became the leader of the Protectionist party.

This year was one of great disturbance throughout all the European States, and there were numerous *revolutions*.

In December Louis Napoleon was elected President of the French Republic.

1849.—Parliament met, February 1. On the Sicilian question, Mr. Disraeli's amendment on the Address was withdrawn after a long debate, in which Lord Palmerston made an excellently lucid statement of the whole subject.

The suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland extended for six months, was carried, 221 to 18.

The *Repeal of the Navigation Laws* passed after much opposition—275 to 214, and in the Lords by a majority of 10. Irish Encumbered Estate Act passed.

The *Oaths Bill* for the admission of Jews into Parliament again passed the Commons, but was again rejected by the Lords by 95 to 70. Baron Rothschild, who was elected M.P. for London, was not allowed to sit.

The *second Sikh War*, which began in November, 1848, terminated in March, under Lord Gough, after the battles of Chillianwalla and Gujerat, and the Punjab was annexed. In March Sir Charles Napier was sent out to India as Commander-in-Chief.

Parliament was prorogued, August 1.

The sentence of death passed last year upon Smith O'Brien was commuted to transportation.

1850.—Parliament opened January 31. An amendment on the Address was negative by 192 to 311. In January Lord Palmerston, acting on his own authority, had sent a British fleet to blockade the Piræus, demanding from the Greek Government compensation for injuries received by British subjects. France and Russia protested, but Lord Palmerston's resolute will compelled the Greeks to submit, and all danger of a collision passed. All parties, however, were startled to find out how peace and war depended on the fiat of a single Minister, and formal *censure* was proposed. In the Lords there was a majority of 37 *against the Ministers*. The debate in the Commons was brought on by Mr. Roebuck on June 19, and lasted some nights. Lord Palmerston defended himself with vigour, in a splendid speech of five hours' length, maintaining that he had not failed of his duty in the proud position of the Minister who wielded the magnificent power of England, and fearlessly challenged the verdict of the House. Sir Robert Peel, in the last speech he ever made, which was distinguished by a manly generosity of tone, said that though they condemned the exploit, yet they were all proud of the man.

The House divided—310 to 264, being a majority of 46 *in favour of* the Government. Lord John Russell, however, who had eloquently vindicated Lord Palmerston, not as "the Minister of any Foreign country, but as only the Minister of England," forwarded to Lord Palmerston, as soon as the Session was over, a Royal command, that in future the Foreign Secretary should *submit all important dispatches to the Queen and the Prime Minister.*

Sir Robert Peel died July 2, in consequence of a fall from his horse..

Baron Rothschild, as Member of Parliament elect for London, was not permitted to take his seat until he had taken the form of oath required by law; but a resolution was passed pledging the House to bring forward a measure of relief for the Jews in the next Session.

Parliament was prorogued on August 15.

About this time the gold discoveries in Australia and California were made.

In July Sir Charles Napier resigned his Indian command, in consequence of Lord Dalhousie's conduct towards him.

During this Session the House of Commons sat for the first time in their New House.

In September the Pope issued a Bull appointing a Roman Catholic Hierarchy in England.

1851.—Parliament opened February 4. The Premier obtained leave to introduce his Ecclesiastical Titles Bill by 895 to 69. Mr. Disraeli's motion in favour of a protective policy, and which was really introduced with the object of defeating the Ministry, was, on February 18, after a long debate, negatived by a majority of only 14 (281 to 267).

On 17th February the Ministry suffered a defeat in a thin House, on a motion of Mr. Locke King's to extend the Franchise (100 to 52).

As it was clear, therefore, that the Ministry had declined in popularity, and even at the beginning of a Session, with all their work before them, could only command a very small majority in the House, Lord John Russell RESIGNED, on February 22. But Lord Stanley, who was sent for by the Queen, found himself unable to form a Government without Mr. Gladstone, who refused to act with him ; and her Majesty asked Lord John Russell to undertake the charge of reconstructing the Ministry.

From February 22 to March 8 there was virtually no Administration, her Majesty being guided by the counsels of the *Duke of Wellington*. The reason of Lord John Russell's diffi-

culty was, that on the subject of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, he was unable to obtain the concurrence of Lord Aberdeen and Sir James Graham. On the 3rd March it was announced in both Houses that in obedience to her Majesty's invitation, and in conformity with the advice of the Duke of Wellington, the former Ministers had resumed their places.

The 2nd reading of the *Ecclesiastical Titles Bill*, after a very long debate of many nights, was carried by 438 to 95. The Peelites were its main opponents, and the Bill was discussed in committee till the 27th June, and passed the Lords July 29.

Mr. Alderman Salomons, who had been elected Member of Parliament for Greenwich, although refusing to repeat the words "on the true faith of a Christian," took his seat, July 18, against the authority of the Speaker; he refused to withdraw when ordered, and even spoke and voted, amidst a scene of great confusion; but was eventually removed by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

There were debates about Lord Torrington's Administration of Ceylon, and Mr. Baillie's motion on this subject on May 28, which the Government regarded as a vote of non-confidence, was negatived by 282 to 202.

This year, during the Colonial Debates, the right of *Self Government in the Colonies* was admitted and established.

Parliament was prorogued August 8.

International Exhibition in London opened May 1. Closed October 11.

Burmese war begun in October.

December 2.—*Coup d'Etat in Paris*. Louis Napoleon became President, and Lord Palmerston, without the authority of his chief or colleagues, authorised the English Ambassador at Paris cordially to acknowledge the title.

1852.—For thus,—in spite of the warning in 1850,—carrying on affairs too much upon his own responsibility, Lord Palmerston was removed from the Foreign Office, and Lord Granville was put in his place.

Parliament met February 8.

The recall of Sir Henry Smith from the Cape was commented upon.

On February 16 Lord J. Russell brought forward his Militia Bill for England and Wales. Lord Palmerston proposed an amendment, extending the provisions of the Bill to the whole of the United Kingdom. This amendment was carried on February 20 by 136 to 125, leaving Ministers in a minority of 11. In consequence of which Lord J. Russell signified his intention of RESIGNING.

EARL OF DERBY'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

1852.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier Earl of Derby (first time).
2. Lord President of Council Earl Lonsdale.
3. Lord Chancellor..... Lord St. Leonards.
4. Lord Privy Seal Marquis of Salisbury.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer.... { Mr. Disraeli, Leader in the House of Commons.
6. Home Secretary Mr. Walpole.
7. Foreign Secretary Earl Malmesbury.
8. Colonial Secretary Sir J. Pakington.
9. First Lord of the Admiralty.... Duke of Northumberland.
10. President of Board of Control Mr. Herries.
11. President of Board of Trade.... Mr. Henley.
12. Commissioner of Woods and } Forests Lord John Manners.

EARL OF DERBY'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

From—February 27, 1852, to December 18, 1852.

Duration—300 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Conservative.

Principal Events—Death of the Duke of Wellington, Louis Napoleon Emperor of the French.

Parliament Dissolved—July 2, 1852.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre.

1852.—The new Ministry was speedily formed, and consisted of twelve members, six in each House ; and on the 27th February Lord Derby explained the motives which induced him to take office and the course he intended to pursue.

The new Ministry took office with an acknowledged minority in the Lower House, and a suspected one in the Upper House ; but a dissolution was to be effected as soon as public business would admit. Lord Derby signified his probable re-imposition of a protective duty on corn, but stated, that on that question the opinion of the country was to be taken ; therefore, an appeal was made in both Houses, that for the present they should forbear to introduce party questions.

During this Session, in spite of repeated questions, the Ministry refused to state, either when the present Parliament was to be dissolved, or their explicit views in regard to Free Trade and the maintenance of the Maynooth Grant.

PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED July 1.

The elections returned 889 Liberals and 819 for the Government ; and the New Parliament met November 4.

The Duke of Wellington, who had died September 14, was honoured by a public funeral November 18 : Lord Hardinge succeeded him as Commander-in-Chief.

Lord Derby alleged that the effect of Free Trade was inju-

rious, but, as in the elections the country had pronounced in its favour, he was prepared to bow to the decision and carry it out, and he bespoke the patience of the House for a fortnight, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer would bring in his budget.

On November 23 Mr. Villiers brought forward his motion in favour of Free Trade. The Chancellor of the Exchequer laboured to show that his party were consistent, and stated that, though Government were prepared to adopt the principle of Free Trade, yet the practise of requiring a recantation of opinion was to be deprecated. Lord Palmerston introduced an amendment to the motion, which merely alleged that the effects of Free Trade were beneficial, and that it would be maintained. This was carried by a very large majority (468 to 53), and Mr. Villiers' original motion was rejected by 336 to 256.

On the 3rd December the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward his Budget.

On the 6th December Ministers announced that the Election of the French President, *as Emperor*, had been cordially recognized.

In Committee *the Budget* was much debated upon, and on the 16th *Ministers were defeated* on the House Tax, by a majority of 19 (305 to 286), the Liberal party being now closely allied to the Peelites.

In consequence of the above adverse decision, the announcement of their *RESIGNATION* was made by the Ministers, on the 20th, in both Houses.

EARL OF ABERDEEN'S ADMINISTRATION.

1853—1855.

THE CABINET.

1. First Lord of the Treasury	Earl of Aberdeen.
2. Lord President of Council	Earl Granville. Lord John Russell, in June, 1854, became Lord President, and Lord Granville took the Duchy of Lancaster.
3. Lord Chancellor	Lord Cranworth.
4. Lord Privy Seal	Duke of Argyll.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. W. E. Gladstone.
6. Home Secretary	Viscount Palmerston.
7. Foreign Secretary	Lord John Russell, for five or six weeks only. Earl of Clarendon.
8. Colonial and War Secretary	Duke of Newcastle. In June, 1854, these offices were separated: Sir George Grey became Colonial Secretary, and the Duke of Newcastle War Secretary.
9. First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir James Graham.
10. President of Board of Control	Sir Charles Wood.
11. War Secretary	Mr. Sidney Herbert.
12. Commissioner of Parks and Public Buildings	Sir William Molesworth.
13. Without Office	Marquis of Lansdowne.
14. Without Office	Lord John Russell, Leader in the House of Commons.

EARL OF ABERDEEN'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—December 27, 1852, to February 5, 1855.

Duration—2 years and 40 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Coalition Liberal.

Principal Event—Russian War.

Parliament Dissolved—None.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre.

DURING the last week of the year 1852 an Administration was formed by Lord Aberdeen, and a Cabinet of fourteen—seven in each House—included the most powerful supporters of Free Trade.

1853.—The House met February 10, and Lord John Russell, the Leader in the Commons, explained the nature of the measures which the Government proposed, closing a long list with a promise of Parliamentary Reform for the next Session.

February 24, Lord John Russell's motion for a committee of the whole House to consider *the disabilities affecting the Jews* was carried by 234 to 205. The third reading of the bill was carried April 15,—288 to 230, and was rejected by the Lords on 29th April, 164 to 115. This year Mr. Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, recommenced with extraordinary vigour and ability, *commercial and financial reform*, which had almost been suspended since the retirement of Sir Robert Peel. Consequently the 8 per cent. Consols went up nearly to par. The Income Tax Bill, after long discussions, finally passed on the 6th June.

May 20.—The Annexation of Pegu was announced.

June 8.—A *New Government of India Bill* was introduced by Sir C. Wood, by which the double Government was to be retained, though modified, e. g., the Crown was to appoint six out of the

eighteen directors, and the Charter was to be renewed ; not for twenty years as before, but only until Parliament shall otherwise provide. The India Civil Service was to be thrown open to public competition. Lord Stanley's amendment, viz., "To wait for further information," was, after four nights' debates, negatived by 322 to 140.

The bill remained long in committee, but after considerable discussion was read a third time and passed, July 29. The Lords' amendments were subsequently agreed to.

A great part of the Session was occupied in discussing *the Eastern or Turkish Question*. On 1st July the Russians had crossed the Pruth.

August 20.—Parliament was prorogued; Lord Palmerston saying he felt confident that the Emperor of Russia would settle the difficulty with Turkey, and of his own accord evacuate the Danubian Principalities, and therefore the prorogation might be made without anxiety. But shortly after the prorogation the Western nations were already drifting into war. On September 27 the Porte declared war against Russia.

October 22.—The French and English fleets, at the invitation of Turkey, entered the Bosphorus. November 30, the Turkish fleet at Sinope was destroyed by the Russians. At this time the first Vienna conference was sitting, and vainly endeavouring to adjust the dispute between Russia and Turkey. A collective note was sent from the four Powers, England, France, Austria, and Prussia, requiring to know on what terms the Porte would negotiate for peace. The reply contained "*Four Points*" as bases of negotiation, viz. :—

1. Promptest possible evacuation of the Principalities.
2. Revision of the treaties.
3. Maintenance of religious privileges to all communities.
4. A definitive settlement of the Convention respecting the Holy Places.

On December 15 Lord Palmerston, the Home Secretary, resigned. The cause of this act gave rise to much speculation, and excited much discussion out of doors. On the 26th he resumed office.

1854.—Parliament was opened January 31.

Lord John Russell introduced an unseasonable Reform Bill, which the House would not entertain, and in April he readily postponed the consideration of it under plea of the war.

WAR WITH RUSSIA was declared March 27. Mr. Gladstone, instead of being able to propose further relief from taxation, was obliged to ask for supplies for the coming campaign. The Budget he brought forward on March 6, and the Supplemental Budget on May 8. He deprecated the system of paying for war by loans instead of taxation, and to meet the war expenditure he doubled the Income Tax, raising it to 14d.

Much legislation had to be postponed on account of the war, and the chief debates were on that subject.

An additional Secretary of State was appointed, thereby dividing the War and Colonial Offices, which occasioned a slight readjustment of the Cabinet.

Parliament was prorogued August 12.

September 14.—Allies land in Crimea. 20th, Battle of the Alma.

October 25.—Balaklava. November 5th, Inkermann.

Parliament met, December 2, in order to take measures for the vigorous prosecution of the war. The fragment of a Session before Christmas was taken up in expressions of dissatisfaction at the condition of the Army in the Crimea.

1855.—Immediately on the meeting of Parliament Mr. Roebuck gave notice of his motion "for a select committee to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol." Just before the debate *Lord John Russell suddenly withdrew from the Ministry*, his advice about the readjustment of the War Office not being followed. The debate on *Mr. Roebuck's motion* lasted two nights, and was accepted by the Government as one of censure on the Ministry in general. It was carried by 308 to 148; and in consequence of this adverse vote the MINISTRY RESIGNED on the 1st February.

LORD PALMERSTON'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

1855—1858.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier	Lord Palmerston (first time).
2. Lord President of Council	Earl Granville, Leader in the House of Lords.
3. Lord Chancellor	Lord Cranworth.
4. Lord Privy Seal	{ Duke of Argyll. Earl Harrowby, July, 1855.
5. Chancellor of Exchequer	{ Mr. Gladstone, resigned, Feb. 22. Sir G. C. Lewis.
6. Home Secretary	Sir George Grey.
7. Foreign Secretary	Earl of Clarendon.
8. Colonial Secretary	{ Mr. Sidney Herbert, resigned, Feb. 22, 1855. Lord John Russell, resigned, July 13. Sir William Molesworth, died Oct. 22, 1855. Mr. Henry Labouchere.
9. War Secretary	Lord Panmure.
10. First Lord of Admiralty	{ Sir James Graham, resigned, Feb. 22. Sir Charles Wood.
11. President of Board of Control	{ Sir Charles Wood. Mr. Vernon Smith, from Feb. 22.
12. Commissioner of Works	{ Sir William Molesworth. Sir Benjamin Hall, from July 22, 1855.
13. Postmaster-General	{ Lord Canning, appointed Gov.-Gen. of India, July, 1855. Duke of Argyll.
14. Chancr. Duchy of Lancaster	{ Earl of Harrowby. Mr. M. T. Baines, from Nov., 1855.
15. Without Office	Marquis of Lansdowne.
16. President Board of Trade	{ Mr. Bouverie. Lord Stanley of Alderley.

LORD PALMERSTON'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

From—February 5, 1855, to February 22, 1858.

Duration—3 years and 17 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Liberal.

Principal Events—Russian War, Indian Mutiny.

Parliament Dissolved—March 21, 1857.

Speaker of the House of Commons :—

Mr. Charles Shaw Lefevre (created in 1857 Viscount Eversley).

Mr. J. Evelyn Denison.

1855.—On the resignation of the Aberdeen Cabinet, Lord Derby had been invited to form a Ministry, but declined. Lord John Russell was also sent for ; but eventually Lord Palmerston hastily reconstructed the Aberdeen Cabinet, without Lord Aberdeen and the Duke of Newcastle, and on Feb. 16 announced the completion of his arrangements ; he stated that the principles of the new Government were identical with those of the last, that they would honestly endeavour to prosecute the war with vigour, and, therefore, he expressed a hope that the House would not insist on carrying out its resolution for a Committee of Inquiry (Mr. Roebuck's) ; he concluded by advertizing to *Lord John Russell's appointment as Plenipotentiary to the Vienna Congress* as a proof that they neglected no means towards securing an honourable peace.

The Committee of Inquiry being insisted upon, the Peelites, *Sir James Graham, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Mr. Gladstone, resigned*, and Sir George C. Lewis became Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Income Tax was raised to 1s. 4d. in the pound, and a loan of sixteen millions raised.

The *Vienna Conference* was unsatisfactory. As his policy was not approved of at home, Lord John Russell withdrew, on April 28, from Vienna, and took up his position as Colonial Secretary.

The Congress finally terminated, without producing any satisfactory result, June 4.

In May, the Opposition, headed by Mr. Disraeli, made a furious attack on the Government, moving a resolution that their language was ambiguous and uncertain. Mr. Gladstone maintained that the object of the war had been attained, that Russia had virtually conceded the four points, and that the further prosecution of the war was unjustifiable. Lord Palmerston replied in a splendid speech, and the Opposition were defeated by a majority of 100.

From this time, Lord Palmerston's power in the House and the country was supreme, and his popularity and influence became so great that, at last, it seemed to have rendered him imperious and dictatorial.

During the remainder of the Session the House was mainly discussing the management of the war and the Government administration, and various abortive attacks were made upon the Ministry, e.g., Mr. Layard's motion, which he brought forward in a speech filled with personal vituperation and baseless assertions, was defeated, June 18, by 359 to 46. *Lord John Russell resigned* his post as Colonial Secretary, as his views on the continuance of the war and foreign policy were not in accordance with those of his colleagues, and his conduct of the Vienna Conference was disapproved. The abolition of the newspaper stamp duty was one of the most important domestic Acts passed this Session. On the 7th August Lord John animadverted on the policy of the Government. Parliament was prorogued

August 14.

September 8.—The Allies entered Sebastopol. •

October 28.—There were numerous assemblages in Hyde Park, ostensibly to protest against the high price of bread. The proceedings were riotous and the police had to interfere.

1856.—Parliament opened January 31. In the Royal Speech the intention of opening negotiations for peace at Paris was announced. February 25.—An armistice for five weeks was agreed upon. The TREATY OF PEACE was concluded and signed at Paris

March 30.—*In the war the English lost about 24,000 men, of whom 4,000 were killed in action and 20,000 died of disease. The French lost 63,500; and the Russians about 500,000. The war added forty-one millions to the National Debt, and nearly an equal amount had been raised by additional taxation.*

May 3 and 6.—Debates on the Treaty of Peace; thanks of the House to the army and navy were moved and agreed to May 8.

In the beginning of the Session a *life peerage* was granted to Baron Parke; the House of Lords, however, opposed his sitting and voting in the House, and in July he was created a peer in the usual way, as Lord Wensleydale.

The Income Tax remained at 1s. 4d.

At the conclusion of the war we were well prepared to continue it, our stores were more abundant, our arms more perfect, and our navy more numerous and better appointed than at the commencement of war. Parliament was prorogued July 29.

In October the army was reduced to a peace footing.

War between England and Persia November to March, 1857.

Renewal of hostilities with China, *in re* the lorcha *Arrow*.

1857.—Parliament opened February 3.

Vigorous attacks were made by the opposition upon the Ministry.

February 23.—Mr. Disraeli's resolution on the Budget was negatived by 286 to 206.

February 24.—In the Lords the Earl of Derby proposed a vote of censure upon the Government for the Chinese war. His resolution was negatived 146 to 110—majority for Government 86.

N.B.—This occasion, and the second reading of the Irish Church Bill, in 1869, are the only defeats which the Conservatives have suffered in party divisions in the House of Peers during a period of twenty years.

Mr. Cobden moved a similar resolution in the House of Commons, which, on March 3, after four nights' debates, was passed —268 to 247. Majority of 16 against the Ministry. The combined attack on the Ministry was by a coalition of Messrs. Disraeli,

Gladstone, Cobden, Bright, and Lord John Russell. On March 5 Lord Palmerston said, in consequence of this adverse vote, an appeal would be made to the country. On the 20th PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED. A majority of 85 for the Ministry was the result of the election, the country thereby condemning Lord Palmerston's opponents, some of whom (Cobden, *e. g.*) lost their seats temporarily.

New Parliament was opened May 7. Mr. Evelyn Denison was unanimously elected Speaker. *The Oaths Bill*, which again passed the Commons, was again rejected by the Lords—173 to 139.

News of the outbreak of the INDIAN MUTINY received. Mr. Disraeli moved a resolution condemnatory of the Ministry with reference to India, which was negatived without a division; and Lord John Russell's resolution to support the Government in suppressing the Mutiny was carried unanimously.

July 13.—Sir Colin Campbell was sent out as Commander-in-Chief. 30,000 troops were also sent. Parliament prorogued August 28.

During the autumn there was a *Commercial Crisis*. Several joint stock banks failed: bank rate of discount rose to 10 per cent. Under these circumstances Lord Palmerston and the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorised the suspension of the Bank Restriction Act.

Parliament was called together December 3, and an Act of Indemnity passed on December 10. Lord John Russell again obtained leave to introduce an Oaths Bill for the relief of the Jews.

1858.—Parliament met February 4.

Thanks of the two Houses were unanimously voted to Indian officers and men for their conduct during the Mutiny.

On February 18 Lord Palmerston obtained leave (213 to 160) after three nights' debate to introduce a bill for *transferring to the Crown the Government of the East Indies*.

On January 14 had occurred the *Orsini conspiracy* to murder the French Emperor, and Lord Palmerston, at the request of the Emperor, introduced his Conspiracy to Murder Bill, the unpopular character of which enabled last year's coalition to renew their

attack with success, *defeating the Government* by 19, on February 19—215 for the second reading, 234 against it.

On the 22nd February the Ministry announced THEIR RESIGNATION in consequence of the above adverse vote.

The reason that Lord Palmerston's Ministry was defeated was principally a personal one. It was that many resented the dictatorial demeanour which he had lately adopted, and which seemed to be caused by the intoxication of a too continual success and popularity.

EARL OF DERBY'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

1858—1859.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier	Earl of Derby (second time).
2. Lord President of Council	Marquis of Salisbury
3. Lord Chancellor	Lord Chelmsford
4. Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Hardwicke.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Disraeli, Leader in Commons.
6. Home Secretary	{ Mr. Spencer Walpole, resigned, March, 1859. Mr. T. Soheron Estcourt.
7. Foreign Secretary	Earl of Malmesbury.
8. Colonial Secretary	{ Lord Stanley. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.
9. War Secretary	General Peel.
10. Secretary for India	Lord Stanley, from August, 1858.
11. First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir John Pakington.
12. President of Board of Trade	{ Mr. W. Henley, resigned, March, 1859. Earl of Donoughmore.
13. President of Board of Works	Lord John Manners.
14. President of Board of Control	{ Lord Ellenborough, who resigned in May, 1858, and was succeeded by Lord Stanley. On the passing of the new Government of India Bill, the Board of Control was done away with, and Lord Stanley became Secretary of State for India.

EARL OF DERBY'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

From—February 22, 1858, *to* June 11, 1859.

Duration—1 year and 111 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Conservative.

Principal Events—Indian Mutiny, Chinese War, Introduction of Reform Bill.

Parliament Dissolved—April 23, 1859, after the Ministry were defeated on the Reform Bill.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. J. Evelyn Denison.

1858.—March 1.—Statements were made in Parliament in explanation of the intentions and position of the new Ministry. And on the 12th Mr. Disraeli was able to announce that the correspondence with the French Government had been concluded satisfactorily and amicably.

Lord John Russell's *Oaths Bill* was gone on with, and passed through committee, Mr. Newdegate's motion to exclude the Jews being negatived by 297 to 144. The clause by which Jews would be enabled to sit in Parliament was rejected in the Lords on the 27th April by 119 to 80; the remainder of the Bill being passed. On May 10 the Commons rejected the Lords' amendments by 263 to 150, and placed Baron Rothschild on the committee to draw up the reasons of disagreement; but the Lords, May 31, insisted upon their amendments. A bill, however, was sent down from the Lords and passed by the Commons enabling Jews to sit in Parliament by a resolution of the House.

On 26th July, Baron Rothschild was introduced by Lord John Russell, and on his stating his conscientious objections to the use of the words "on the true faith of a Christian" they were omitted from the required oath, by a resolution which was carried by 69 to 87, and Baron Rothschild having taken the oath accordingly, took his seat in the House. This was a victory gained by Lord J. Russell after a struggle of eight or nine years.

On April 12, the House going into the question of the *New Government of India Bill*, Lord John Russell proposed (and Mr. Disraeli acceded to the proposal) to proceed at first by way of resolution, rather than by bill. This was accordingly done, and the bill founded on the resolutions which had been, after considerable debates, adopted by the House, passed through its third reading on the 8th July; and it passed the Lords without opposition, not having been made a party question. By this bill the entire powers of Government were transferred to the Crown, and instead of the Board of Control, a Secretary of State for India was appointed, with the advice of a paid council, consisting of fifteen members, (of whom eight are appointed by the Crown and seven by the East India Company,) who were not allowed to sit in Parliament. In accordance with this Bill, Lord Stanley, who had succeeded Lord Ellenborough at the Board of Control, became the first Secretary of State for India. On the 1st of November the Queen was proclaimed in India, Lord Canning receiving the title of Viceroy.

The old double Government of India had been established by Mr. Pitt in 1784, and had been continued, with alterations in 1793, 1813, 1833, and 1853, up to this time.

During the summer, treaties were signed both with China and with Japan.

In November Mr. Gladstone went as Commissioner to the Ionian Isles.

Parliament was prorogued August 2.

1859.—Parliament met February 3rd.

Mr. Walpole, Home Secretary, introduced a Bill for a Settlement of the Question of *Church Rates*; but the second reading was rejected, March 9, by 254 to 171.

From May 3 to July 11 *France and Austria were at War* on the subject of Austrian dominion in Piedmont.

In the early part of the Session Mr. Disraeli injudiciously brought forward a *Bill for Parliamentary Reform*. His measure was objectionable in its details, and the whole matter was *pugnant to the House*, and not just then called for by the country.

His own party were divided by the measure, and Messrs. Walpole and Henley resigned their seats in the Cabinet in consequence of their dissent. There was to be no lowering of the franchise in the boroughs, but lateral extension in fancy franchises. The county occupiers' qualification was to be equalized to the borough qualification. On the second reading Lord John Russell moved an amendment, that the House would not be satisfied with any readjustment of the franchise which did not extend it more than now proposed.

The debate occupied many nights between the 21st and 31st of March, during which Mr. Disraeli made it known that if the Government were defeated an appeal would be made to the country. On the division Government were defeated, 330 to 291—Liberal majority 39. PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED April 23, and the country elected a Liberal majority of 51.

Previous to their dissolution Parliament had, April 14, passed unanimously votes of thanks to the civil functionaries and the army for the suppression of the Indian Mutiny.

The new Parliament met May 31, and Mr. Evelyn Denison was unanimously re-elected Speaker. The Royal Speech was delivered June 7. On the Address the Marquis of Hartington moved an amendment to the effect that the Ministry did not possess the confidence of the House. After two nights' debate the House divided—823 to 310; majority against Government 13; and on 17th June the MINISTERS RESIGNED. It is remarkable that in his able defence of the Government, Mr. Disraeli did no more than show how his efforts had been frustrated by the Opposition; he laid claim to no legislative achievement, for the two important amendments in the laws which had been effected, had not originated with the Government—the Government of India Bill being Lord Palmerston's measure, and the Jewish Disabilities Bill being Lord John Russell's.

LORD PALMERSTON'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

1859—1866.

THE CABINET.

1. Premier	{ Lord Palmerston (second time), died October 18, 1865, succeeded by Earl Russell.
2. Lord President of Council.....	{ Earl Granville, Leader in the House of Lords.
3. Lord Chancellor	{ Lord Campbell, died June 23, 1861. Lord Westbury, resigned July 4, 1865. Lord Cranworth.
4. Lord Privy Seal	Duke of Argyll.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer.....	{ Mr. Gladstone, Leader in the House of Commons from October, 1865.
6. Home Secretary	{ Sir George C. Lewis. Sir George Grey, August, 1861.
7. Foreign Secretary	Lord John (afterwards Earl) Russell.
8. Colonial Secretary	{ Duke of Newcastle. Mr. Cardwell, April 8, 1864.
9. War Secretary	{ Mr. Sidney (afterwards Lord) Herbert, retired 1861, and died in Aug. 1861. Sir Geo. C. Lewis, died April 13, 1863. Earl de Grey and Ripon.
10. Secretary for India	Sir Charles Wood.
11. First Lord of the Admiralty....	Duke of Somerset.
12. President of Board of Trade....	{ Mr. T. Milner Gibson. This office was offered to and declined by Mr. Cobden, as he could not agree to the increased war expenditure.
13 Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	{ Sir George Grey. Mr. Edward Cardwell, August, 1861. Earl Clarendon, April 8, 1864.
14. Postmaster-General	{ Earl of Elgin, proceeded to China, April, 1860. Lord Stanley of Alderley in Sept., 1860.
15. Poor Law Board.....	Mr. Charles P. Villiers.

On the death of Lord Palmerston, October 18, 1865, no addition was made to the above Cabinet; but EARL RUSSELL BECAME PREMIER for the second time. Lord Clarendon took the Foreign Office, the office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster remaining vacant. Mr. Gladstone took the lead in the House of Commons.

LORD PALMERSTON'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION,
CARRIED ON, AFTER LORD PALMERSTON'S DEATH, BY
EARL RUSSELL.

From—June 13, 1859, *to* June 27, 1866.

Duration—7 years and 14 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Liberal.

Principal Events—Chinese War, American Civil War, Cotton Famine, Fenian Conspiracy, Death of Lord Palmerston, Introduction of Government Reform Bill.

Parliament Dissolved—July 6, 1865.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. J. Evelyn Denison.

June 1859.—On the Earl of Derby's resignation, the somewhat invidious task devolved upon the Queen of deciding between the pretensions of Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell. Both were in the House of Commons, both had led the House, and both had been Premiers. In order to avoid the appearance of being swayed by personal feelings, the Queen sent, in the first instance, for Lord Granville, under whose titular Premiership it was thought the other two might act. Lord Palmerston would have consented, but not Lord John Russell; and after considering the disadvantages of this course, Lord Palmerston, whose Premiership was of the more recent date, was sent for.

On the 30th of June the new Ministry made their opening statement in both Houses.

On the 18th Mr. Gladstone introduced his Budget. Owing to the disturbed state of Europe, and the great naval preparations of France, it had been necessary to add enormously to the naval and military expenditure. To meet this Mr. Gladstone had to raise the Income Tax from 5d. to 9d., by which he expected to gain more than four millions. One of the characteristics of Lord Palmerston's Cabinet was the annual financial statement of

Mr. Gladstone—thorough, and though unavoidably intricate, precise and clear, continually warning the House against the growing national extravagance.

Parliament was prorogued August 13.

There was great dissatisfaction throughout the Indian Army at their being unceremoniously transferred to the Queen's service; and about 10,000 men in consequence retired.

1860.—Parliament was opened January 24.

The *Commercial Treaty between England and France*, negotiated by Mr. Cobden, was signed on January 28. Mr. Gladstone, in the debate on the subject, paid a high tribute of praise to its main author. Some idea of its success may be formed from the fact that, in four years, the exports to France rose from nine and a half to twenty-four millions.

On February 10 the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward the *Budget*. The Income Tax was raised to 10d. After a debate on this tax the House divided, February 24—389 to 223; majority of 116 for the Government.

In the beginning of March, Lord John Russell introduced the *Government Reform Bill*, which proposed to lower the borough franchise to 6*l.* There were long debates: the second reading was carried on the 3rd of May without a division; but the motion for going into committee was carried by a very small majority. Lord John, therefore, considering the state of public feeling on the matter, and the known indifference of Lord Palmerston, was forced reluctantly to relinquish his zealous labours to improve Parliamentary Representation.

On the Lords rejecting a bill for the Abolition of the Paper Duty, resolutions were carried in the Commons asserting their sole right to deal with money matters.

Parliament, after an uneventful Session, prorogued August 28.

August 12.—The second *Chinese War* began. Pekin was invested. The Summer Palace was burnt October 18. On October 24 the Treaty of Tien-Sin was signed.

This autumn the Bourbons were expelled from Naples by Garibaldi.

On November 6, Abraham Lincoln was made President of the United States, and from this time the defection of the Southern States commenced.

1861.—Parliament was opened February 5.

At the beginning of the year the Southern States of America seceded. On February 8 their delegates assembled at Montgomery, and agreed to a Constitution and Provisional Government, of which Jefferson Davis was declared President.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. April 19.—Blockade of the Southern Ports proclaimed.

The Session was uneventful, and there were no great party debates. Votes of thanks were passed in both Houses to the Army and Navy engaged in the Chinese Expedition. The death of Count Cavour, the Italian Prime Minister, called forth expressions of deep regret from all parties.

Parliament was prorogued August 6.

October 31.—A Convention was signed between England, France, and Spain, to combine in an expedition to enforce their respective claims against the Government of Mexico. The United States refused to join.

November 8.—The English mail steamer, *Trent*, was boarded by the Officers of the United States frigate, *San Jacinto*, and Messrs. Mason and Slidell, Commissioners of the Confederate Government, were taken off. On November 30 orders were sent to Lord Lyons to leave America in seven days, unless the United States Government immediately gave them up. Mr. Seward acceded to the demand, and they were given up December 27. But for this concession, war would have certainly broken out between England and the United States.

Death of the Prince Consort, December 14.

1862.—Parliament opened on February 6. The chief point in the Royal Speech was the death of the Prince Consort. The Session was even more uneventful than the last—there were no party debates and no great measures carried.

On May 14 the 2nd reading of the Church Rates' Abolition

Bill was moved by Sir John Trelawny, but was negatived by 287 to 286. An amendment, declaring it to be unjust to abolish Church Rates before some other fund had been provided by Parliament, was carried by 288 to 271.

With reference to the American Civil War, Lord Russell said, that our Government held the Blockade of the Southern Ports to be efficient, and had respected it accordingly, and that England had done nothing to aggravate the bitterness of the contest.

Parliament was prorogued August 7.

The International Exhibition at Brompton lasted from May to November.

In April the great *distress in the Cotton Manufacturing Districts* began, in consequence of the Blockade of the Southern Ports in the United States ; the distress increased during all this year, and reached its climax about Christmas, when about half a million people were dependent upon charity and parochial funds. During the summer of 1863 the distress was on the wane. At that time about two millions had been contributed to the various relief funds.

1863.—Parliament was opened February 6.

In the Queen's Speech reference was made to the protection of the Ionian Isles being resigned ; to the patient endurance shown by the cotton manufacturers under their severe privations ; and to the continued maintenance of a neutral position towards the contending parties in the United States.

On March 27 Mr. Forster called attention to the fitting out of vessels of war for the Confederates in our ports. The Solicitor-General replied that the Government had acted with good faith towards the United States ; they were anxious to enforce the law, but must have legal evidence of its infraction.

There were many discussions during the Session relative to our neutral position with regard to America, and to our remonstrances with Russia against her cruelty towards Poland, and with regard to the Schleswig-Holstein difficulty.

On April 18 Sir G. C. Lewis, Secretary of State for War, died.
Parliament was prorogued July 28.

During the year the American War continued.

The *Polish War* commenced in January, and the Poles vainly appealed for help; though England, France, and Austria remonstrated with Russia.

The Prince of Wales married the Princess Alexandra of Denmark on March 10.

1864.—Parliament opened February 4. In the Queen's Speech reference was made to the war in Denmark, the war in New Zealand, the cession of the Ionian Isles to Greece and the continued depression of the cotton trade.

April 4.—Mr. Stansfeld, a Junior Lord of the Admiralty, resigned his office, in consequence of his friendship with Mazzini, who had been implicated in a plot against the life of the Emperor of the French; he was succeeded by Mr. Childers.

April 18.—Mr. Lowe, Vice-President of the Board of Education, resigned his office, in consequence of an adverse vote (101 to 98), passed on April 12, on a resolution referring to the reports of the Inspectors of Schools being garbled and mutilated. On a debate on the subject, on 12th May, Mr. Lowe's vindication was allowed to have been complete.

July 1 to 8.—There was a great party debate, in the House of Commons, on Mr. Disraeli's motion, condemnatory of the Ministerial policy with reference to the *Danish War*. On the division there was a majority of 18 for the Government (818 to 295). At the same time a division on the same subject, in the House of Lords, showed a majority of 9 against the Government (177 to 168).

Parliament was prorogued July 29: the Message stating that her Majesty deeply regretted that they had been unable to bring about a reconciliation between Denmark and Germany, and that the American Civil War continued.

The war of Austria and Prussia against Denmark, January 21 to May 12; then, after an armistice of six weeks, renewal of hostilities, June 26 to August 1. Peace, October 20. During the war England made various vain attempts at a settlement.

In April Garibaldi visited England.

June 1.—The Ionian Isles were finally ceded to Greece.

June 19.—The Confederate cruiser, *Alabama*, which had been the North American scourge for nearly two years, was sunk, in the English Channel, by the Federal corvette *Kearsage*.

From November 12 to November 1865, there was war in India, against the Bhootanese.

1865.—Parliament opened February 7. Reference was made in the Queen's Speech to the continuance of the civil war in America, and of the war in New Zealand, and to the proposed confederacy of our North American Colonies.

April 2.—Mr. Cobden died.

April 14.—*Murder of President Abraham Lincoln*, by one Booth, in a Theatre at Washington. Unanimous addresses, expressive of sorrow and indignation, passed in both Houses on the receipt of the news.

On July 2 attention was called to the case of *Mr. Consul Cameron*, who had been thrown into prison by the King of Abyssinia. Mr. Layard endeavoured to clear himself, and to throw all the blame on the absent.

July 3 a resolution was passed unanimously in the House of Commons, with reference to Lord Chancellor Westbury and the Edmunds case, in which the Lord Chancellor had granted a retiring pension to a man against whom a charge of corrupt dealing was pending, and put his own son into the office. The House of Commons declared that this grant of the pension showed a laxity of practice and want of caution with regard to the public interests on the part of the Lord Chancellor. In consequence of this vote *Lord Westbury resigned* the next day. He was succeeded by Lord Cranworth.

July 6.—Parliament prorogued AND DISSOLVED. General election commenced July 10.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA TERMINATED May 26, on the surrender of the Confederate General, Kirby Smith.

Cattle Plague begun June 19, spread rapidly during the autumn and winter.

October 18.—LORD PALMERSTON DIED, aged 81, after having been almost continuously in office for nearly sixty years. He

was buried at Westminster Abbey, October 27. The Cabinet remained almost unchanged, EARL RUSSELL BECOMING PREMIER, Lord Clarendon taking the Foreign Office, and Mr. Gladstone becoming leader in the House of Commons.

October 13.—*Insurrection of Negroes in Jamaica* promptly suppressed by Governor Eyre. A Commission, under Sir H. Storks, sent out to inquire into the disturbances and the measures taken in suppressing them.

Fenian Conspiracy in Ireland. Stephens, the Head-Centre, was arrested, but escaped from gaol.

1866.—The New Parliament opened February 1. Mr. Evelyn Denison was re-elected as Speaker. On February 6 the Queen opened the business of the House for the first time since the death of the Prince Consort in 1861; the Lord Chancellor, Lord Cranworth, standing just below her, and reading the Speech. Reference was made to the termination of the American Civil War, the late melancholy events in Jamaica, the Cattle Plague, and the Fenian Conspiracy. The Address was voted in the House of Lords without a division, and by 346 to 25 in the Commons.

March 21.—The *Jamaica Inquiry* terminated. The Commissioners praised Governor Eyre for his vigour in suppressing the rebellion, but considered that the punishments inflicted had been excessive.

Ireland being in a very disturbed state owing to the *Fenian Conspiracy*, the Habeas Corpus was suspended, the Act passing through all its stages, almost unanimously, on February 17.

March 12.—Mr. Gladstone introduced the *Government Reform Bill*, reducing the qualification of the Borough occupiers to 7*l.*, even where the landlords compounded for rates, and giving the Franchise to lodgers paying 10*l.* a year. The County Occupier's qualification was to be reduced to 14*l.* The redistribution of seats was to be brought in in a subsequent measure. The bill was opposed by the Conservatives and many of the Liberals, both on account of the amount of the reduction, and because the redistribution of seats was not included. After a debate, which lasted many nights,

the second reading was carried April 27, by 318 to 313; but Mr. Gladstone yielded the second point, and brought in his Bill for the Redistribution of Seats on May 7; and on May 28 the House went into Committee on both bills together. On the 18th June Lord Dunkellin moved, as an amendment, that 'rateable value' be substituted for 'clear yearly value,' which, after an animated debate, was *carried against the Government*, by 315 to 304. In consequence of this adverse vote notice was given, on June 26, in both Houses, of THE RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

The parliamentary history of Lord Palmerston's last Government was not brilliant, and the legislation was of an unostentatious, even if of a useful, character.

Among the principal acts passed may be enumerated:—

The Condensation of the Criminal Law, by Lord Westbury, in 1861.

The Improved System of Parochial Assessments, by Mr. Villiers, in 1862.

The Government Annuities' Act, by Mr. Gladstone, in 1864.

The period was one of transition: public opinion was becoming matured by discussion of important topics, but little was actually done. This was partly because public attention was much directed to foreign affairs, chiefly to the American Civil War, and partly on account of Lord Palmerston's known antipathy to domestic change. The advanced Liberals all took great exception to his Government, on account of its large military and naval expenditure, and its indifference to Parliamentary Reform, the Ballot, the Abolition of Church Rates, &c.; and in this feeling of dissatisfaction there is little doubt that Lord Russell and Mr. Gladstone shared.

The elections of the autumn of 1865 returned a computed majority of 70 members for Lord Palmerston's policy; but, as he died in October, he never met the New Parliament.

The change caused by his death, placing Lord Russell and Mr. Gladstone at the head of the Cabinet, at once brought on the question of Reform, and before Parliament had met Government had collected the necessary electoral statistics; but Mr. Gladstone was unable, at that time, to keep the Liberal party

united, and it was the opposition of some of them (who had retired into, what Mr. Bright called, "*a Political Cave of Adullam,*") which led to the defeat of the Ministry.

Owing to the change of Ministry Mr. Gladstone's bill for converting twenty-four millions of the public debt into annuities, terminable in 1885, and Mr. Chichester Fortescue's bill, relating to the Land Tenure in Ireland, by which the outgoing tenant was to be allowed compensation for unexhausted improvements, were both abandoned.

EARL OF DERBY'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION.

ON HIS RETIREMENT IN FEBRUARY, 1868, THE MINISTRY WAS

CARRIED ON BY

MR. DISRAELI.

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THE CABINET.

		Ministry recast by Mr. Disraeli, Feb. 28, 1868.
1. Premier	Earl of Derby (3rd time).	Mr. Disraeli.
2. Lord Chancellor ..	Lord Chelmsford.	Lord Cairns.
3. Lord Pres. Council ..	Duke of Buckingham became Secretary for Colonies. Duke of Marlborough, March 8, 1867.	Duke of Marlborough.
4. Lord Privy Seal....	Earl Malmesbury.	Earl Malmesbury, nominal Leader in the Upper House.
5. Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Disraeli, Leader in Commons.	Mr. G. W. Hunt.
6. Home Secretary ...	Mr. Spencer Walpole, resigned May, 1867, but continued to sit in Cabinet. Mr. Gathorne Hardy.	Mr. Gathorne Hardy.
7. Foreign Secretary..	Lord Stanley.	Lord Stanley.
8. Colonial Secretary ..	Earl Carnarvon, resigned. Duke of Buckingham, March 8, 1867.	Duke of Buckingham.
9. War Secretary	General Peel resigned. Sir John Pakington, March 8, 1867.	Sir John Pakington.
10. Secretary for India.	Lord Cranborne resigned. Sir Stafford Northcote, March 8, 1867	Sir Stafford Northcote.
11. First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir John Pakington, became Secretary for War. Mr. H. T. Corry, March 8, 1867.	Mr. H. T. Corry.
12. Chief Com. of Works	Lord John Manners.	Lord John Manners.
13. President of Board of Trade	Sir Stafford Northcote, became Secretary for India. Duke of Richmond, March 8, 1867.	Duke of Richmond.
14. President of Poor-Law Board	Mr. Gathorne Hardy, became Home Secretary. Earl of Devon, March, 1867.	Earl of Devon.
15. Chan. of the Duchy of Lancaster	Earl of Devon. Colonel W. Patten, from June, 1867.	Lord Henry Lennox.

EARL OF DERBY'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION.

ON HIS RETIREMENT IN FEBRUARY, 1868, THE MINISTRY WAS
CARRIED ON BY
MR. DISRAELI.

From—June 26, 1866, to December 3, 1868.

Duration—2 years and 161 days.

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Conservative.

Principal Events—Abyssinian War, Reform Bill, Debates on the Irish Church.

Parliament Dissolved—November 11, 1868, for the election of the new Reformed Parliament.

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. J. Evelyn Denison.

1866.—The Ministry was not constructed till July 9. Lord Derby had in vain tried to get “the Adullamites” (Mr. Horsman, Mr. Lowe, Earl Grosvenor, Lord Elcho, &c.,) to join him. In his opening statement Lord Derby said that the Government would endeavour to maintain friendly relations with all foreign Powers,—that he was unpledged to reform, and therefore he would not introduce a Reform Bill unless he saw a fair prospect of carrying it. For the remainder of the Session there were no party questions raised. Owing to the Fenian conspiracy the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act was renewed for another six months, though not without some opposition.

On July 28 a popular meeting in Hyde Park having been forbidden, an immense crowd collected, and, finding the gates shut, tore down the Park railings.

Parliament was prorogued, August 10.

The New Atlantic Cable completed.

1867.—During the winter there was great distress in the *east of London*.

Parliament was opened by the Queen, February 5.

The *Fenian disturbances* increasing, and the conspiracy apparently widening, the Habeas Corpus Suspension was extended for another year.

Reform demonstrations took place in London. On the subject of REFORM the Government were vacillating, and acknowledged that they had no definite plan of their own, but were willing to accept whatever the House thought best,—in fact, to delegate to the House the chief duty of an administration, viz., the initiation of measures.

On February 11 Mr. Disraeli informed the House that he would proceed by means of resolutions. On February 25 he explained the Government proposals respecting Reform ("The Ten Minutes Bill"). On February 26 he announced that the Government Reform resolutions would be withdrawn and a bill introduced, which was done on the 18th March.

On the 2nd March *Lord Cranborne, Lord Carnarvon, and General Peel resigned* their seats in the Cabinet, as they were unable to acquiesce in all Mr. Disraeli's quickly-changing plans. The Cabinet was accordingly readjusted, and the Dukes of Richmond and Marlborough and Mr. Corry joined it.

The whole Session was taken up in *Reform Debates*. In May a large public demonstration was about to take place in Hyde Park, and the Government almost produced a riot by forbidding it to take place in the Park,—calling out special constables, and then, on the day before, cancelling all their former orders and allowing the meeting to be held in the Park. It consequently passed off quite quietly, as the other meetings in Leeds, &c., had done. *Mr. Walpole resigned* his portfolio as Home Secretary in consequence of the general dissatisfaction expressed at his vacillation, but he continued to sit in the Cabinet.

The bill was in Committee from April 11 to July 15, and underwent various changes,—every point being the subject of debates and divisions. The Government, however, showed themselves willing to yield to pressure upon all points, and to discard *all clauses* which might prove obnoxious. There was some doubt as to whether the Leader of the House would be able to carry his

party with him in his work of concession. But he managed to "educate" them in a surprising manner, and on August 15 the bill received the Royal Assent and became law, but in a form very different from its original design. It emerged from these long debates an ill-arranged, democratic measure,—the checks having been, one by one, withdrawn, and the requirements of the most advanced Reformers satisfied by concessions. It was sent forth by its nominal author characterized as "a leap in the dark" and "a great experiment," and recommended by him rather as a politic settlement than as an advantageous change. The Irish and Scotch Reform Bills were postponed.

July 15.—Sir S. Northcote stated that no measures of force were in contemplation against Abyssinia. On the 25th Lord Stanley spoke to the like effect.

August 21.—Parliament was prorogued,—the Queen's Speech saying that a peremptory demand for the release of the prisoners in Abyssinia had been sent. Immediately after the prorogation Government went to war with Abyssinia, sending their formal letter, September 9.

Sir Robert Napier was appointed Commander-in-Chief, with carte blanche as to expenses.

November 19.—Parliament opened to vote supplies for the Abyssinian Expedition. The Government, afraid of putting the whole expenditure upon the nation by whom and for whose sole sake the war had been undertaken, actually voted that a part of the expense should be borne by the Exchequer of India, whose people were ignorant of, and whose rulers had had nothing to do with, except to deprecate, the war.

In July the Government had given a State ball at a large expense to the Sultan of Turkey in Europe, and had sanctioned the payment of that ball out of the revenues of India in Asia—the reason given being that the Sultan was of the Mahomedan religion, and there were a good many of that same religion in India.

The debates on the Abyssinian War, and the Blue Book, showed that the immediate cause of the war was King Theodore's indignation at never receiving a reply to a letter which he addressed to the Queen, and which was mislaid for about two

years when Lord Russell was Secretary and Mr. Layard Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The *Fenian disturbances* continued, and culminated in an explosion of gunpowder, by which the wall of *Clerkenwell Prison* was blown down and about twelve innocent people were killed and one hundred and twenty were wounded.

1868.—Parliament met again February 13 ; and shortly after, the Government stated that they were prepared with *an Irish policy*. In a debate in the Lords, February 24, Earl Russell insisted that it was necessary to satisfy Ireland about the Church, which was regarded by the Irish as a badge of conquest. The Duke of Richmond, in reply, said the Government policy was to be promulgated in the House of Commons. But this was for a time postponed, as on February 25 **LORD DERBY RESIGNED THE PREMIERSHIP** on account of failing health, and left Mr. Disraeli to recast and carry on the Ministry.

Mr. Disraeli re-formed the Ministry—making but little change, except that he induced Lord Chelmsford to resign the Chancellorship,—replacing him by Sir Hugh Cairns, and making Mr. Hunt Chancellor of the Exchequer. Almost the first act he had to perform was to renew the suspension of the Habeas Corpus in Ireland.

In his opening speech he announced that he was going to adopt a “truly liberal policy,” and that Lord Mayo, the Chief Secretary, would unfold the Government policy proposed for Ireland.

On March 10 *Lord Mayo*, in announcing the policy for Ireland, admitted the gravity of the crisis, and said that the Government had no disinclination to the proposal of “levelling up” the other churches in Ireland to a position of greater equality with the Established Church; but that they did strongly object to “levelling down.” After a long debate Mr. Gladstone stated that the Government had entirely failed to realize the greatness of the Irish crisis, and that if any good were to be done by meddling with the Church in Ireland *it must be by putting an end to its existence as a State Church*. In reply Mr. Disraeli declared that, *though the present House was competent to adopt the policy of levelling up, they were not competent to disendow.*

From that moment the Liberal party became united under Mr. Gladstone, and ceased to be, what it had not inaptly been characterized, "a mere rabble."

On March 28 Mr. Gladstone introduced his RESOLUTION FOR DISESTABLISHMENT. Lord Stanley on that moved, as an amendment, that though considerable modifications were required, yet the time was inopportune.

Mr. Hardy said that the *Government would never surrender the Irish Church.*

On April 14 Lord Stanley's amendment was lost by a majority of 61. But Mr. Disraeli took no notice of this defeat; and on May 1 Mr. Gladstone carried his first resolution by a majority of 65.

A few days previously some ill-feeling was excited by Lord Derby, who had now no seat in the Cabinet, advising the Ministry to treat with contempt the adverse votes of the Lower House, and not to resign until an appeal had been made to the new constituencies.

Mr. Disraeli, however, proceeded to Osborne, AND TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION to the Queen, in consequence of the above adverse votes. On May 4 he stated in the House the result of his interview. He said that her Majesty had refused to accept his resignation, and had given him authority to dissolve Parliament as soon as the public business would permit. The Opposition resented this, alleging that the advice he had given her Majesty was unconstitutional; and three nights were occupied in debates abounding in invective and recrimination.

On May 7 Mr. Gladstone passed his two remaining resolutions without division,—the Ministry only recording their negative.

On May 12 the Queen gave her assent to the Resolutions.

On May 18 Mr. Gladstone introduced his *Suspensory Bill* to prevent for a limited time [until August 1, 1869] new appointments in the Church of Ireland. The bill passed by a majority of 54, and passed through committee, June 5. It was sent up to the Lords, and, after great and animated debates, was rejected by a majority of 95.

Supplementary Reform Bills for Scotland and Ireland, the *Boundary Bill* and *Corrupt Practices Bill*, were passed, though

not in the form introduced by the Government; e.g., in the Scotch bill the county franchise was to be determined by the rental, and not by the rating value,—thus reversing, two years later, the vote that brought the Government into office.

In passing the *Mutiny Act* the usual words, “for the purpose of maintaining the balance of power in Europe,” were omitted.

The *Abyssinian Expedition* was entirely successful, and the prisoners were rescued. Sir Robert Napier was accordingly feted and raised to the peerage.

Flogging was abolished in the army in time of peace.

In the beginning of the Session Mr. Gladstone's Bill for the abolition of *Compulsory Church Rates* was passed.

Parliament was prorogued, July 31.

All the evils attending Government by a Ministry possessing a minority in the House of Commons were realized during this Session; viz., fierce personal discussions and recriminations unchecked by a powerful Ministry,—Bills passed in a mangled and inconsistent form,—the principles of Parliamentary Government violated, and the dignity of both Houses impaired.

In November PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED.

The *General Elections* took place between November 16 and December 2. They turned almost entirely on the Irish Church question; or, in other words, may be said to have taken the sense of the country on the simple question, “Shall Mr. Disraeli or Mr. Gladstone be Premier?” Public excitement ran high throughout the country, and culminated in the election for South West Lancashire, where Mr. Gladstone was defeated. He had, however, been already returned for Greenwich.

Before the termination of the elections, however, it was manifest that the Liberals would have a majority of over 100 in the House. MR. DISRAELI ACCORDINGLY RESIGNED, and on the 2nd December he issued his circular to the Conservatives through the Press, stating that he had resigned, finding himself with so large a majority against him; “though,” he added, “he would continue to give an uncompromising resistance to the disestablishment of the *Irish Church*, which, he believed, would be disastrous in its effects, and rife with calamity to society and the State.”

MR. GLADSTONE'S ADMINISTRATION.

1868.

THE CABINET.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Premier | Mr. Gladstone. |
| 2. Lord President of Council | Earl de Grey. |
| 3. Lord Chancellor | Lord Hatherley. |
| 4. Lord Privy Seal | Earl of Kimberley. |
| 5. Chancellor of the Exchequer | Mr. Lowe. |
| 6. Home Secretary | Mr. Bruce. |
| 7. Foreign Secretary | Earl of Clarendon. |
| 8. Colonial Secretary | { Earl Granville, Leader in the House
of Lords. |
| 9. War Secretary | Mr. Cardwell. |
| 10. Secretary for India | Duke of Argyll. |
| 11. First Lord of the Admiralty | Mr. Hugh C. E. Childers. |
| 12. President of Board of Trade | Mr. John Bright. |
| 13. President of Poor Law Board | Mr. Goschen. |
| 14. Postmaster-General | Marquis of Hartington. |

MR. GLADSTONE'S ADMINISTRATION.

From—December 10, 1868.

Duration—

Reign—Victoria.

Party—Liberal.

Principal Event—Disestablishment of the Irish Church.

Parliament Dissolved—

Speaker of the House of Commons—Mr. J. E. Denison.

1868.—Owing to the unusual circumstance of the resignation of the late Ministry taking place when Parliament was not sitting [the only other instance being that of Lord Goderich in 1827, but he had never sat in Parliament as Prime Minister], some difficulty and delay was necessarily experienced in the formation of the Cabinet. Sir Roundell Palmer refused the Chancellorship on account of his not agreeing in Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy. Mr. Bright declined a State Secretaryship, but accepted the Board of Trade. Arrangements were, however, almost complete by the 10th December; though, when Parliament was opened, the new Ministry were represented in the House by Mr. Ayrton, one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, the new Cabinet Ministers not having seats in the House until their re-election. Mr. John Evelyn Denison was re-elected Speaker.

1869.—Parliament met on 16th February.

The record of this Session is little else but a history of the Bill for the DISESTABLISHMENT AND DISENDOWMENT OF THE IRISH CHURCH. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sullivan, the Attorney-General for Ireland, were generally believed to be the chief framers of the draft bill.

The passage of the bill through the House of Commons extended over thirteen weeks, the measure having been introduced by the Prime Minister on March 4. On the 18th of that month

the debate on the second reading began, and it was continued until the morning of the 24th, when Mr. Disraeli's amendment for its rejection was negatived by 368 to 250. On April 15 Mr. Gladstone moved "that the House go into committee on the bill," when Mr. Newdegate interposed with an adverse amendment, which, after one night's debate, was rejected by 355 to 229. On the next evening the House commenced the consideration of the bill in committee, and Mr. Disraeli at once moved the omission of the second clause dissolving the legislative union between the established churches of England and Ireland. The clause was affirmed by 304 to 221. On the 19th Mr. Hardy moved "that the date of the separation should be 1872 instead of 1871," but this was negatived by 301 to 194. In all there were twenty-two divisions upon the bill, and all of them with the same result, "the tyrant majority" not allowing any of the amendments, but sending the bill up to the Lords very much in its original form. The average majorities were 112, the highest 146, and the lowest 86, which was on Mr. Disraeli's amendment, proposing to alter the date for dealing with private endowments. The bill was read a third time on the morning of June 1 by a majority of 114.

In the House of Lords the debates were far more animated than in the Lower House, where the vigour of the Opposition was damped by the overwhelming power of the Government. The majority in the House of Lords were certainly opposed to the spirit of the bill; and yet, after a magnificent debate of many nights, the *second reading was carried by a majority of 38—179 to 146.*

On the opposition side the principal speakers were the Bishop of Peterborough—whose fervid eloquence was then for the first time heard in the House—Lords Derby, Cairns, etc.

Many of the Peers, such as Lords Salisbury, Devon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, etc., though opposed to the principle of the bill, yet voted for the second reading, under the belief that to reject it now would be to lose the opportunity of revising it. The principal speakers in favour of the bill were Lords Russell, Hatherley, and the Duke of Argyll, and the Bishop of St. Davids. *On the whole the debate was worthy of the House and the occasion, and on both sides of the House there was much sincere*

eloquence. There had been great apprehension of a serious embarrassment in case of a disagreement between the two Houses, but this was dispelled by the result of the division. In committee the opposition Peers altered the bill in many material points. The *Lords' amendments* chiefly were:—

1st. The retention of their seats in the House of Lords by the present Irish bishops.

2nd. The commutation of clerical incomes at fourteen years' purchase.

3rd. The free delivery of parsonages.

4th. The antedating by one hundred years of the private endowments to be retained by the Church, together with the Ulster glebes.

5th. The removal from the preamble of the words stating that the surplus is not to be applied to religious purposes, but to the advantage of the Irish people, and the annulling of the clause devoting the surplus to charitable uses.

These amendments were rejected by the House of Commons, and the bill was returned to the Lords on the 16th July.

It seemed doubtful how the differences between the two Houses would end, when unexpectedly Lord Cairns, as a representative of the Conservatives, had a conference with Lord Granville, and a *compromise* was come to, which was accepted both by the Government and the Opposition. And the bill in this form was finally passed on the 23rd July. The highest praise is due to Lord Granville for the able and courteous manner in which he performed his extremely difficult duties in conducting this bill through a House the majority of whose members were adverse to it. The principal features of the compromise were the entire abandonment by the Opposition of the first and fourth amendments, and the postponement of the fifth to future legislation.

The peaceful settlement of this great question, the most important which for years has occupied the Houses of Parliament, was a great triumph for Mr. Gladstone. The success of this measure, which, giving the appearance of just and equal treatment, will, doubtless, carry satisfaction and contentment to the

hearts of that large portion of the Irish people, which has long suffered under laws—mitigated, indeed, as compared with the odious severity of former legislation, but still stamped with the mark of inequality and injustice—is a subject of just gratification to the great Liberal party in the whole kingdom, and to the leaders by whose exertions it was achieved.

Although this Session was the Session of the Irish Church Bill and little else, yet some measures of considerable importance were carried. A new Bankruptcy Bill was passed; and also the *Endowed Schools Bill*, which has gone far to afford the middle classes a hope that the charitable foundations of former ages may now be turned to practical use.

Government also completed the arrangements, entered into last year, for the purchase of the Telegraphs; adding, however, a provision for a monopoly.

The attempt to initiate popular measures in the House of Lords was not successful, for the Scotch Parochial Schools Bill was so transformed by the Lords before it was sent down to the Commons, that the Lord-Advocate had to bring in a new one; thereby causing some confusion.

Mr. Sullivan, *the Mayor of Cork*, having made use of seditious language at a Fenian banquet, became, for a short time, a man of mark; for in order to remove him from his Mayoralty it was found necessary to pass a special Act of Parliament declaring him unworthy to hold office. Mr. Sullivan's timely resignation happily removed the necessity of bringing in such a bill of Pains and Penalties.

The University Tests Bill, which was passed by the Commons, was rejected by the Lords.

The site of the new Law Courts was much discussed.

Parliament was prorogued August 11.

During the recess, public attention was much directed to the prevalence of corrupt practices at Parliamentary elections, especially at Beverley and Bridgewater, where the disclosures made at *the inquiry* were of a surprising nature.

On the 23rd October Lord Derby died, after a severe and most painful illness, borne with exemplary patience; by which

event the Conservatives lost a leader whose character, position, and abilities had made him universally respected.

On November 6 the Queen went in state to the City, and publicly opened Blackfriars Bridge, and the Holborn Valley Viaduct. The erection of the former of these had cost 350,000£., and that of the latter, with its approaches, upwards of two millions.

In November, Mr. Layard went as Minister to Madrid. Mr. Ayrton succeeded him as First Commissioner of Works. Mr. Stansfeld became Financial Secretary to the Treasury; and Mr. W. H. Gladstone was appointed a Junior Lord of the Treasury.

THE END.

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